



## Leadville National Fish Hatchery

February/March 2020

February's activities revolved around dealing with snow. Several snow storms required multiple days spent digging out and on a few occasions, extra help from contractors. Large front-end loaders and plows were hired to stack the snow piles higher and help open up the roads and parking lots after a two-day storm. Additionally, contract employees were hired for a few days to assist the hatchery crew with clearing some of the snow off building roofs.



After one 24-inch snowfall, we needed to hire some larger equipment to clean up.



Looking east during a snow squall warning.



The edge of the driveway.



Two contract laborers were hired to clear off the pavilion and 5-stall garage roofs of 3-4 feet of snow.

March brought some relief from the February snows with warmer temperatures into the 30's and sunshine. As the snow started melting and sliding off the roofs that weren't cleared, some damage appeared. Ice and snow buildup on the hatchery building and the sudden avalanche release caused some of the steel shingles to be bent and displaced. A contractor was hired to repair the steep pitched roof.

Other March maintenance issues included a frozen septic line, frozen domestic water line and a leaking water line. All were dealt with and hopefully spring will come soon.

With the closure of Colorado ski areas because of the Covid-19 outbreak, the hatchery saw an increase in tourism during the spring break period. To better protect the hatchery employees and public, we closed our hatchery building and public restrooms. Additionally, both outside Friends fish food dispensers were removed. The Friends group Winter Fun Day scheduled for March 22 was postponed until next year.



Contract workers removing damaged hatchery building shingles.



In March the Bureau of Reclamation shut off the main water supply to the hatchery to inspect their pipeline for a day. This required us to locate and dig out buried valves to operate the hatchery off of frozen Evergreen Lake #1.



Mid-March brought the return of the first mountain bluebirds. In preparation for the breeding season Bio Tech's Brandee Keuer and Maddie Toolen cleaned out all the bird boxes along Highway 300 and the hatchery property.

## **Hatchery Staff**

Project Leader - Ed Stege

Fish Biologist - Paige Moran

Facility Operations Specialist – Vacant

Temp Biological Technicians:

Brandee Keuer

Alyssa Capriotti

Madeline Toolen