



## Leadville National Fish Hatchery

October – November 2020

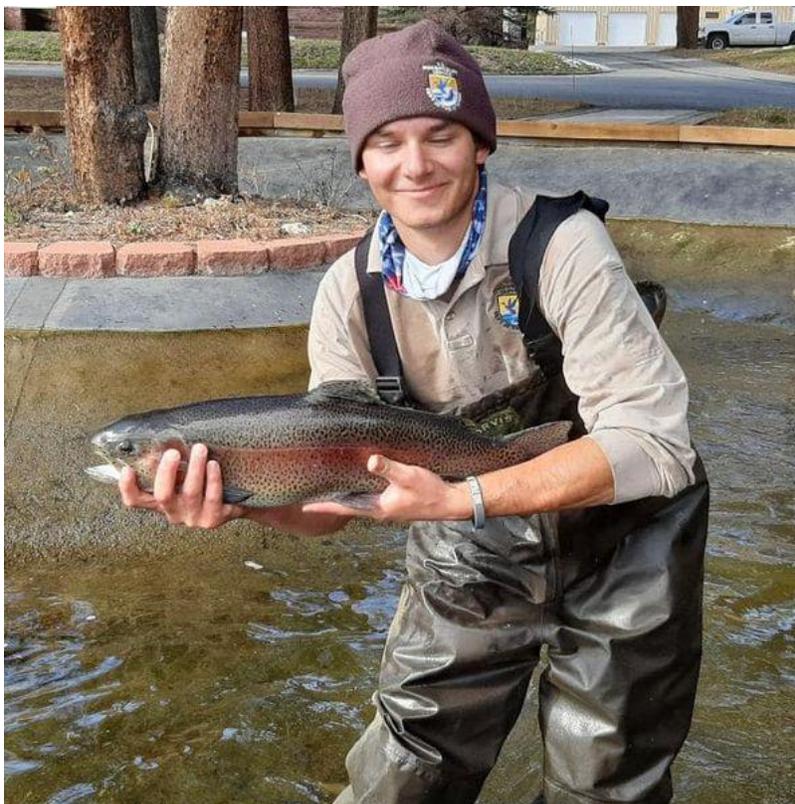
October into November is the transition time to prepare for winter in the high country. We spent the time splitting fish raceways one final time, shutting down the fish display pond and catching up on much needed maintenance tasks. Oh and don't forget the all "important" government paperwork.



Bio Tech's Ryan Maxwell, Michael Hechman and Facility Ops Specialist Andrew Thatcher splitting fish into their final homes before release next summer.



Andrew Thatcher and Michael Heckman lined 300 more feet of the DeMary Irrigation ditch on the hillside above all the hatchery houses. From June through September when the ditch is providing irrigation water to the neighboring ranch, some water was seeping into the ground and ending up pooling by the hatchery houses.



Bio Tech Michael Heckman showing off a nice catch in the display pond. For the winter the display pond fish are moved to the lowest most concrete raceway and the pond is shut down and dried.



Bio Tech Ryan Maxwell swabbing for chytrid fungus on our young-of-the-year Wyoming toads. Once the toads pass disease testing they can be moved to our grow-out culture tanks.



Late summer and fall was dry, causing Lake County to be under High Fire Danger for the first time this late in the season in decades. Pictured is smoke from the East Troublesome Fire in Grand County the day it burned more than 100,000 acres. The picture was taken from the entrance road into the hatchery.



Luckily late October brought some much needed moisture lessening the fire danger.



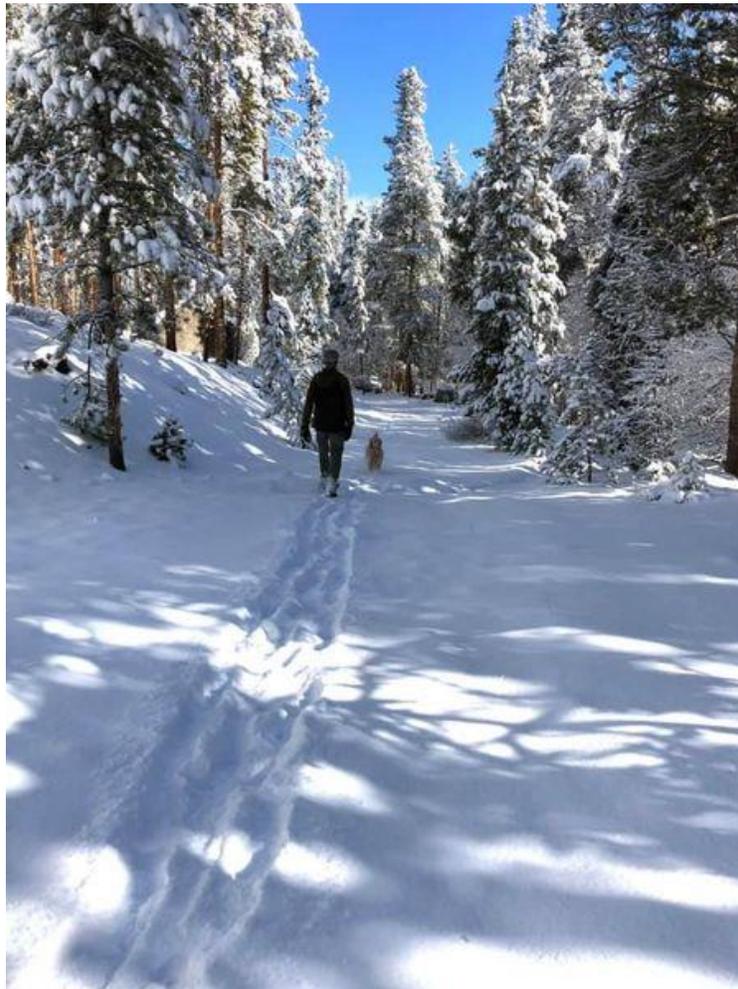
The Friends hatchery building window replacement project is finally complete. Pictured above is the window and faux French door into the Visitor Center rooms.



In November Quinault Project Leader Josh Homer transferred to Leadville. Josh will serve as the Assistant Project Leader until the end of December when he is expected to take over the Project Leader position. The picture above was taken in June while Josh was serving a 30-day detail.



Two pack rats and a long tailed weasel were spotted in the hatchery building. The pack rats were captured and relocated miles away. The weasel was left to its own devices keeping the mouse population down with its infrequent visits.



Ed Stege and his dog Bree checking out the hatchery trails on his day off. The hatchery has several miles of trails used for snow shoeing and cross country skiing in the winter.

## **November Hatchery Staff**

Project Leader - Ed Stege

Assistant Project Leader – Josh Homer

Fish Biologist - Paige Moran

Facility Operations Specialist – Andrew Thatcher

Temp Biological Technicians:

Alyssa Capriotti

Michael Heckman

Ryan Maxwell