Resort finds replacing bunker sand during cold weather less disruptive

By Mark Leslie

The hundreds of golf courses each year that replace their bunker sand — disturbing the turf, angering golfers and losing money along the way — may want to use another tactic.

Taking a pioneering chance, Keystone (Colo.) Resort officials decided to wait until the off-season and disturb the snow instead of another tactic.

"Our original plan was to finish the front nine by July," he said. "I’d be thrilled if I could get that. Yet it started to snow in late October and never stopped. We had the second snowiest November ever in Colorado and we still did 24 bunkers by Thanksgiving."

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Our goal in the fall was to do 10 bunkers," Cornellier said. "We felt we could make mistakes never occurred.

"Where we’ve packed snow down we’ve been able to make almost a rug of snow cover to protect the playing surface from trucks. We’ve been able to do it without a mark on the turf," Briddle said.

Added Cornellier: "When this kind of work is done in the spring, summer or fall you’re going to have some kind of damage. With 60, ten inch drills gently penetrating even heavily compacted soil, the Floyd-McKay Deep Drill Aerofier is boring indeed. But the results are exciting.

Instead of compacting the side of the holes like ordinary tines, the drills allow better percolation, increase root growth. And the green is playable immediately after treatment.

Call us toll free for a demonstration or an appointment to do all your greens in one very boring day.