

Goose Lake Redband Trout



Goose Lake redband

trout are one of 11 California Heritage Trout. This native trout's range includes Goose Lake basin in California and Oregon and its tributaries; upper Pit River and headwater tributaries, and the South Fork Pit River drainage (trout caught from the Pit River system downstream of Bieber do not qualify for the Heritage Trout Challenge). Although redband trout can grow to large size in Goose Lake, they are seldom caught there.

Smaller-sized Goose Lake redband trout are usually easier to find in the tributary streams and headwaters of the Pit River.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Spotting and coloration similar to coastal rainbow trout, with subtle differences. Redband trout usually have a definitive red band that runs along the lateral line. They're almost always profusely spotted, with larger spots dominating the area near the base of the tail. Small purplish parr marks are retained through adulthood in most stream populations. Fins usually orange with white tips on the dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins. Lake populations are less spotted and the colors more muted.

Life History & Other Notes

In years with plentiful rainfall and good water conditions, Goose Lake can provide a productive environment for fish to grow, and trout migrating into the lake reach larger sizes. During normal to drought conditions the lake is not as conducive to the trout's growth, and the fishery becomes more dependent on the handful of tributaries that provide habitat for the resident fish.

Goose Lake Redband Trout

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii

OTHER COMMON NAMES

redband

RANGE & HABITAT

Native to Goose Lake basin, upper Pit River and headwater tributaries, and South Fork Pit River drainage

LENGTH & WEIGHT

Small streams: to 12 in.

Some larger fish in lakes

LIFESPAN

To 5 years

DIET

Eats insects, insect larvae & nymphs