

The Rogue River Fisheries

Four Species of Trout in Rogue Discussed

Resident Rainbow Are Native Trout To This Region

Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of articles by Cole M. Rivers, fisheries agent, Oregon State game commission, on the Rogue river fishery and its management.

(The series are presented at this time as surveys of the Rogue basin looking to a water control program are nearing completion, and to aid in understanding the Rogue, its fish life and proposed dams on the river and its tributaries.)

(Today's article is a general description of the various kinds of trout which are found in the Rogue basin, their identifying features, range and use.)

By COLE M. RIVERS
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The species of trout in the Rogue watershed are rainbow, cutthroat, eastern brook, and German brown. Rainbow are present in two forms, resident rainbow and the steelhead, its migratory cousin. Cutthroat are here in three forms, namely the resident coastal cutthroat, the migratory coastal cutthroat, and the Montana black-spotted cutthroat.

Rainbow
Resident rainbow are the original native trout of this area. They are abundant in all headwater portions of rivers and creeks and down the main stem of the upper Rogue.

The upper reaches of migratory steelhead overlap the downstream ranges of resident rainbow. When resident trout are found at points lower in the basin, they have either been planted from the hatchery or are occasional drifters from above. There is evidence that the farther downstream into migratory range resident rainbow drift, the more likely they will pick up the migratory habit of steelhead and move out to sea.

Rainbow trout have a comparatively small head and mouth, small round spots high on the sides, back and fins. Sometimes there is a red stripe on each side. The maxillary (the bone on the upper lip of the mouth, extends back to a position below the middle of the eye.

These fish are the most abundant trout in the Rogue basin. For fishery management, they are the best trout for reproduction, survival, growth, and general hatchery use. They exceed all other trout in return to the angler's creel.

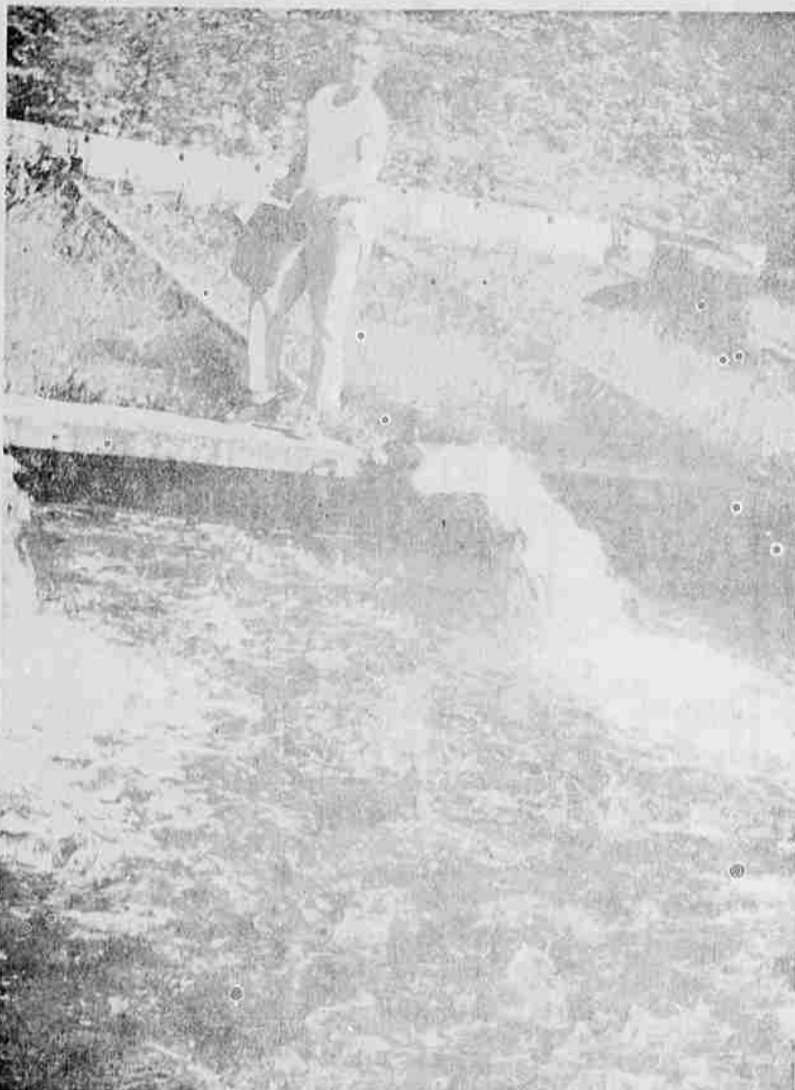
Cutthroat
Cutthroat trout also have profuse small spotting and are more easily distinguished by a comparatively large mouth with a long maxillary that extends to a position below and behind the eyes. The red dash on the bottom of the lower jaw is sometimes a yellowish color. On some specimens, the dash is difficult to see at all.

Resident coastal cutthroat are found in headwater portions of tributaries located at higher elevations and are also the original native trout of the Pacific coast. Because they prefer residence in small streams, they rarely grow to a large size. Cutthroat trout like heavy shade and deep holes with overhanging banks.

Small dark trout found in headwater tributaries in the back country are often called "native trout." These are not a different species of trout. Some are resident cutthroats, but most are resident rainbow. The dark coloration, fat body, and small size of these fish result from adaptation to a small stream with heavy shade and cover and slow rate of growth in cold mountain water.

Not much is known about the true habits of the migratory coastal cutthroat in the Rogue. These cutthroats come into the river from the sea in late spring or early summer and move up the main channel of the Rogue, sometimes up as far as McLeod. Fresh-run fish are difficult to find until November and December when they show up again ready to go up tributaries of their choice to spawn.

Montana black-spotted cutthroat are found at Squaw lakes. They were introduced in the early 20s. After many generations of cross-breeding with the native form of the coastal cutthroat, only a few of their original characteristics remain.
Eastern Brook
Eastern brook trout are



BOILING WATER - Legal-sized rainbow trout make the water boil in a pond at the Battle Falls hatchery as they are being fed by Hank Tynset, a hatchery employee.

found in drainage systems of the North and South Fork Rogue and in tributaries heading high in the Cascades. They are not native to the area but were introduced by the U.S. bureau of fisheries and the forest service many years ago. The fish that remain replenish their own numbers by natural propagation and are doing well in cold water areas where the habitat is ideal for them.

The eastern brook is a charr, not a true trout. These fish prefer the use of spring outlets for laying eggs and do not require running stream water that true trout must have. Brook trout can be recognized by a mottled pattern on the back, white edges on the fins, and red spots without a halo on the sides and body.

Most of the lakes in the Cascades chain between Crater and Fourmile lakes are stocked annually with eastern brook by the game commission. They have been planted again into Fish lake in Jackson county. Bolan and Tannen lakes in the Siskiyou are stocked regularly with them.

German Brown
The German brown (often called Lock Leven) is another trout that has been introduced. These fish were released into the North Fork of the Rogue many years ago. Populations have never grown to a high level, but some are taken each year by early season anglers fishing in deep holes between Prospect and Union Creek.

It is generally agreed that German browns are the smartest of all the trout. Because of extreme wariness brown trout are difficult to catch and are not fish the average or novice angler can enjoy.

German browns are true trout. Dusky or muddy coloration, small red spots with a white halo on the sides along with large black spots are distinguishing characteristics. These fish are considered the most hearty of the trout, and if the habitat is ideal, they will thrive, take over and crowd out other fishes.

Numerous requests have been received to establish brown trout in the middle section of the Rogue to furnish more trout fishing in the summer months.

As mentioned before, if they became established, the browns would provide little fishing for the average or novice fisherman. Many would escape even the expert fly fisherman because with heavy fishing pressure they are known to become tacklewise and grow to a large size and old age.

themselves throughout the Rogue system. Although brown trout adults can normally withstand higher water temperatures than other trout, they require cold, spring-fed streams and tributaries to spawn and reproduce young. Brown trout are also full spawners, a time of year when water temperatures in the Rogue are fairly high. Scouring, winter high waters could also limit survival.

Brown trout are well known predators on small fishes, and there is much concern over the degree of predation that might occur on young salmon and steelhead if a few browns refused all anglers' lures and grew to a ripe old age. Many hard lessons have been learned in the United States in 1950 exotics are often found more harmful than good. The rule that has at most become a maxim is that

Civil War Parley Warns on Keeping Abreast of Times

Gettysburg, Pa.—The fourth annual Civil War conference has closed with a warning that those who do not keep abreast of the times "are in danger of being run over."

Avery Craven, professor emeritus of history at the University of Chicago, said one of the lessons of the war between the states was that the "ever present problem in government of securing a just balance between control efficiency and local freedom cannot be solved by force but only through understanding, tolerance and statesmanship."

Craven said although slavery was a symbol of "northern aggression and of southern rights" the "cold fact" was that secessionist states were "protesting against the loss of status."

However, the historian said the nation was helpless to prevent the conflict because behind the forces which precipitated the war was the "emerging modern world and its differing effects on a common people."

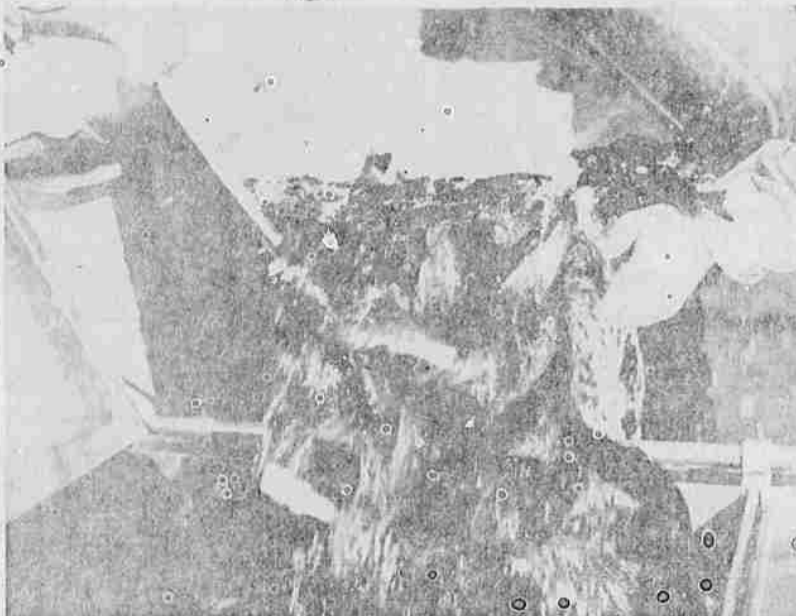
"This was the culprit which had pushed the sections apart, given them conflicting values, and made it so difficult to produce the statesmanship capable of finding solutions," Craven said.

He said future generations might learn from the civil war that "when new sources of energy and new spiritual values start building a new age, those who do not catch stride are in danger of being run over."

Craven said the Civil War should be regarded as a "national tragedy, not as a romantic museum piece, as something to regret and gain a lesson from, not something to glorify."

the fish that will do best is the one that is native.

In many instances, irreparable harm has resulted by the introduction of a new fish that is not native to the area. Not even the new fish or the natives do well in the same water together.



LEGAL TROUT - A tub-full of legal-sized trout is loaded into a game commission motor truck at the Battle Falls hatchery for release to streams in the Rogue basin. A total of 137,000 are stocked annually.

Burglar Alarm Is 'Robber Sitter'

New York—A new burglar alarm designed for homes or small business firms operates like an electronic robber "sitter" for a local police department.

Installation of the system by its manufacturer, Teletronic Security Systems, Inc., involves wiring between the protected place and police headquarters.

When the wired premise is forcibly entered, a signal inaudible to the burglar, is flashed to police. Officers can then turn on microphones to listen in on the robbery and switch on the lights when they move in to capture him.

Signals, different from the robbery alarm, also notify police of fire or sprinkler damage on the protected premise. The system also can be activated by the householder or businessman during daytime hours.

Wow! See Special Celebration Section in Today's Mail Tribune!

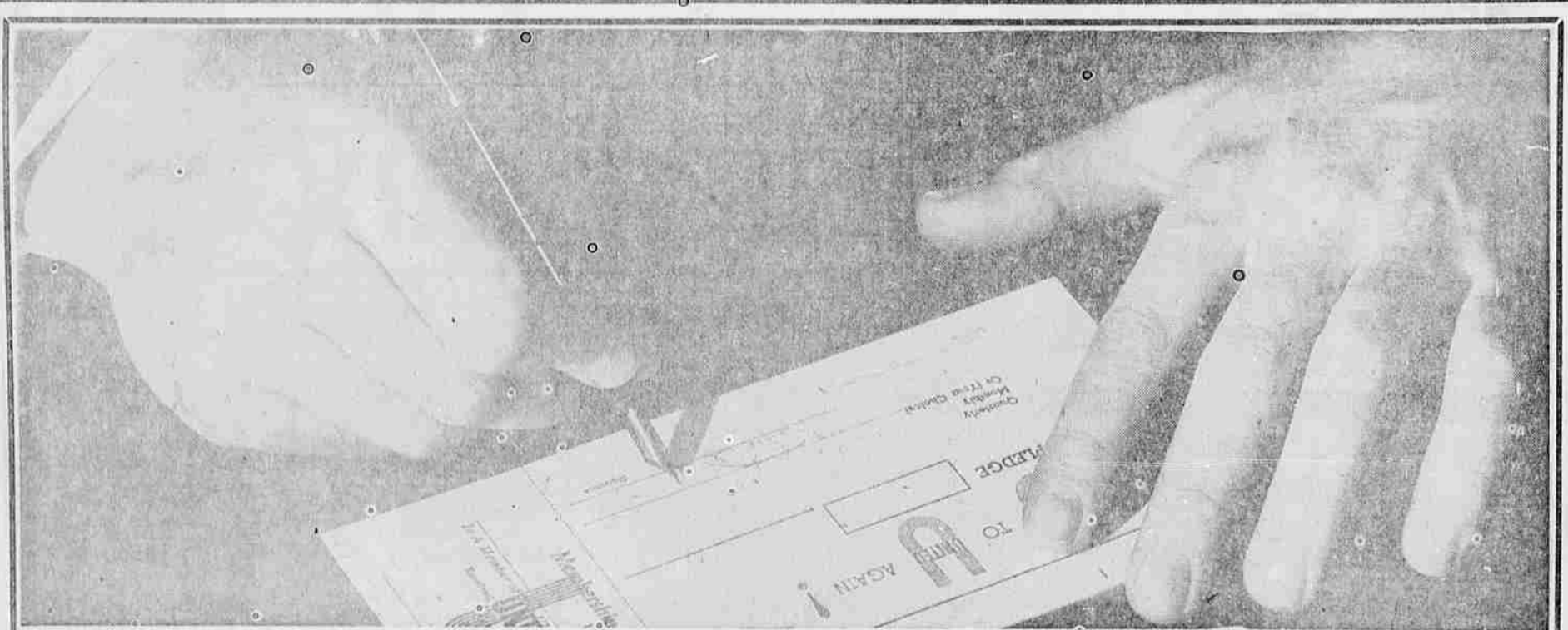
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