

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



## HOW A TRIBE, A CITY AND A BASEBALL TEAM RALLY TO SAVE A FISH

By Drew Gerber  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

**H**ard-fighting. Resilient. Part of Spokane's identity. When the vice president of the Spokane Indians baseball team heard these words during a conversation last summer, he could have sworn they were talking about his players.

Instead, Otto Klein found himself deep in discussion about a fish.

In search of a new mascot to rally fans at the bottom of the sixth inning, Klein and his team sat down last year to think about what was important to the Indians and the city of Spokane – not to mention the Spokane Tribe, whom the team endeavors to include and honor in many of its promotions. Inspired by the city's recent investments in conserving and caring for the river, Klein said he looked to the river habitat for something that would speak to the community.

That's how, in conversation with Brent Nichols, the fisheries program manager for the Spokane Tribe, Klein learned about the redband rainbow trout – and knew he found his mascot.

"The more I really talked with people, they told me that this

See **RALLY, 5**

**ABOVE:** Cardstock rally bands will be passed out to fans at Avista Stadium.

**RIGHT:** The Spokane Indians team store will sell trout hats. A donation from each hat sold will be made to support local redband trout habitat.



DAN PELLE/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane Indians outfielder Kobie Taylor, right, and Spokane Mayor David Condon, left, try on the new redband uniforms Wednesday at The Gathering Place next door to Spokane City Hall.

Thursday, June 29, 2017 | www.spokesman.com

## Kremlin sees U.S. meddling, report says

Agency's unclassified assessment: Russia convinced regime change is goal

By Robert Burns  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Kremlin leaders are convinced America is intent on regime change in Russia, a fear that is feeding rising tension and military competition between the former Cold War foes, the Pentagon's intelligence arm has assessed.

The unclassified report by the Defense Intelligence Agency, which was publicly released Wednesday, portrays Russia as increasingly wary of the United States. It

cites Moscow's "deep and abiding distrust of U.S. efforts to promote democracy around the world and what it perceives as a U.S. campaign to impose a single set of global values."

"The Kremlin is convinced the United States is laying the groundwork for regime change in Russia, a conviction further reinforced by the events in Ukraine," the report says, referencing the claims by President Vladimir Putin's government that the U.S. engin-

See **RUSSIA, 8**



## WILDFIRE SMOKE DRIFTS OVER CITY

Wind expanded three fires Wednesday, some as close to Spokane as Grant County, where the sheriff issued a Level 1 evacuation notice for the area of Trinidad after brush and grass continued to burn. Another fire burned on a ridge top near

Shore Acres at Loon Lake and another near Thorpe along Interstate 90 west of Ellensburg. Winds whipped smoke all the way to Spokane, where air quality dropped slightly and skies turned hazy. **NORTHWEST, 1**



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

As of Wednesday evening, the Sutherland Canyon Fire had burned approximately 45,000 acres near Wenatchee. The Spartan and Straight Hollow fires also burned in the state.

## Budget deal lesson in speed reading

Public has day and a half to learn what's in plan's hundreds of pages

By Jim Camden  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

OLYMPIA – The budget deal reached in the early morning hours Wednesday apparently will stave off a partial government shutdown.

It definitely will spend a record amount of money on key state services, almost certainly will raise some existing taxes or require some new ones, and could satisfy a Washington Supreme Court mandate to improve the state's public schools. Voters won't auto-

matically get a chance to reject any tax increase in November.

But if, as predicted, the Legislature manages to pass it by sometime Friday, allowing Gov. Jay Inslee to sign it before midnight, it will keep all phases of state government operating as a new fiscal year starts Saturday.

At that point, the public will have had about a day and a half to find out what's in the deal, and almost no opportunity to weigh in on whether they think it's good or

See **BUDGET, 8**

### TOP VATICAN CARDINAL CHARGED WITH SEX OFFENSES

Pope Francis' chief financial adviser is highest-ranking official to be charged in church's long-running scandal. **NEWS, 3**

### JURY: DEPUTIES NOT GUILTY IN MAN'S DEATH

County deputies did not use excessive force on man who died outside South Hill gym, verdict says. **NORTHWEST, 1**

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# Concern remains for redband trout

Data show population stable for area's signature fish, but that's not good news

By Drew Gerber  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

While recent years have seen the city of Spokane's pulse pick up, time has not been so kind to its signature fish.

The redband trout – named for the speckled black and red bands that brilliantly flash down its sides as it dances vigorously on the end of a fishing line – isn't considered an endangered or threatened species, though some conservation groups argue it should be.

Native to the more than 250,000 square miles that make up the Columbia River basin, the redband can only be found in

about half of what is believed to be its historic range. Though there is some academic controversy over how to categorize and evaluate the health of redband populations, studies have agreed the introduction of invasive species, the fragmentation of the redband's habitat by man-made creations, like dams, and climate change all present challenges.

Brent Nichols, the fisheries program manager for the Spokane Tribe, said his data show that local redband populations have been stable over the past decade, but that means there's been no growth.

Many factors, like water qual-

ity, sediment or temperature, can impact a population's health. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife considers the redband a "sentinel" species, acting as a measure of a river's aquatic health. But Nichols said his team theorized that anglers were taking breeding pairs out of the ecosystem, ultimately impacting the population's ability to grow.

The tribal hatchery releases about 150,000 captive trout, of a coastal variety chosen to prevent integration with the wild native fish, intended for recreational fishing, Nichols said.

Bill Abrahamse, Spokane Falls chapter president of Trout Unlimited, said he hopes to find out why the Spokane River's redband population struggles while others continue to grow.

"In the Spokane River, there are

maybe 300 redbands per mile," he said, noting that some streams in Idaho have as many as 3,000.

Abrahamse said his group would like to work with WDFW to study what is limiting the redband in the river. Recently, the department has worked to provide technical information to the Spokane Indians baseball club ahead of its coming redband awareness campaign.

Trout Unlimited, which Abrahamse described as a group of conservation-minded fishermen, said people love to fish for the redband because of the fight it can put up once hooked, for its beauty, and because "it's special when you catch one since there aren't many." But more than that, Abrahamse said people are drawn to the experience of fishing down on the river the redband calls home.

"Fishing on the river ... once you get down there, you can't even tell you're in an urban area," he said.

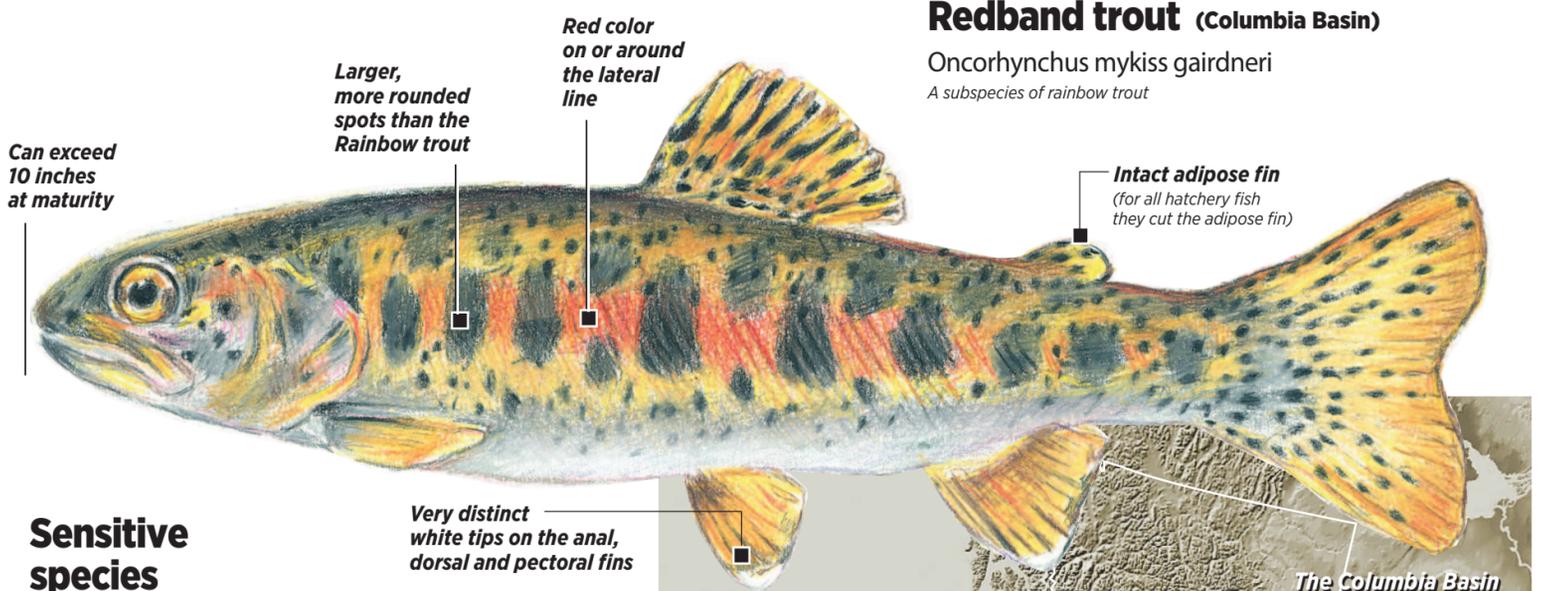
Department of Fish and Wildlife regional fisheries manager Chris Donley agreed with Abrahamse, noting that it is unique to have a native species like the redband make its home in the heart of a city's downtown. He said people often forget there are organisms living in the river not far from the city pavement.

"It's a legacy species. It represents what we used to have before the dams," Donley said. "It does well here ... and it is the only type that will do. If we want trout, we can't lose the redband."

CONTACT THE WRITER:  
(509) 459-5428  
drewg@spokesman.com

## Spokane River's native fish

A barometer of aquatic health, redband trout require clean water to survive. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife considers the fish a sentinel species.



### Redband trout (Columbia Basin)

*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*  
A subspecies of rainbow trout

### Sensitive species

Estimated distribution of redband trout

54.7% of its historic range

5.3% occupied by strong populations

Small remnant populations are found throughout the Pacific Northwest and in British Columbia.

Redband trout are classified as a sensitive species by the USDA, Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management.

A survey of the upper Spokane River found:

1980s 2,000 - 19,000 redband trout

2008 1,200 redband trout

### Fishing restrictions



### Habitation zone

Location

According to the Washington state Department of Ecology, redband trout are found in well-defined geographical distributions throughout Idaho, Montana and Washington.

The relatively small streams must be cool, clean and low-sloped like the Spokane River.

### Food

Insects, crustaceans and forage fish

### Reproduction

Spawn late April through mid-June depending on water temperatures and levels.

The fry (young fish) emerge around mid-July

### Threats

- Recreational boating
- Withdrawals from the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie aquifer for development
- Wastewater discharges into the river
- Hydroelectric dams
- Poaching
- Predators, smallmouth bass (illegally introduced into Lake Coeur d'Alene)

### New fishing rules for redband trout

As of Jan. 1, 2017, the rules apply to native redband trout on Lake Roosevelt and the Spokane and Sanpoil arms.

- Must release any trout with an intact adipose fin (hatchery trout have a clipped fin).
- Daily catch limit is five trout not including kokanee.
- No limit on how many fish may exceed 20 inches.
- From Little Dalles power line crossing to the U.S.-Canada border the daily catch limit is two trout, hatchery or wild, and the minimum size is 18 inches.

Sources: The Western Native Trout Initiative; Trout and Salmon of North America, Behnke, 2002; Washington state Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Staff writer Rich Landers

MOLLY QUINN/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## RALLY

Continued from 1

is Spokane's signature fish," he said. "We don't have salmon in our river anymore, but we do have this vibrant redband trout and that's what we should celebrate."

The redband trout is native to Spokane and historically comprised a significant part of the Spokane tribe's diet. Though not threatened, the redband population concerns conservationists because it has struggled to return to historic levels due to invasive predatory species and the impact of the Grand Coulee Dam.

The team, members of the tribe, and Mayor David Condon gathered Wednesday to reveal the newly designed team jerseys, caps, and rally bands at the Spokane

Tribal Gathering Place next door to City Hall. In a statement, Condon said the Indians' new promotional campaign highlights the work the city is doing to improve the river's health in a way that will connect with "our youth who will be responsible for caring for our river well into the future."

The jerseys are a shimmering blue reminiscent of the river, marked down the sides with the black and red speckles of the redband. On one arm, the traditional Indians logo in Salish, and on the other a newly designed logo of a jumping trout.

In addition to the team's alternate uniforms, which will be worn five times this summer before being auctioned off, Klein said fans will receive free rally bands – similar, he said, to the paper crowns distributed by Burger King – to wear as they cheer on their new mascot.

Rally mascots are not uncommon in sports, coming in to give the fans something to cheer for, but the team wanted to make sure the mascot was something meaningful, Klein said.

"That's something that's really important to us," he said. "That our promotions have meaning and depth."

Klein said the Spokane tribal council "really embraced" the team's choice of the redband.

Impressed by the new logo and the campaign, Nichols said he asked to emblazon it on a new research vessel his team had purchased, which the Indians allowed. The boat, named Big Dog in honor of researcher Randy Peone who died in a car accident last year, will trawl the shallows to aid in conservation efforts.

"(The campaign) will get our concerns out to the tribe, the general public and an-

glers," said Nichols, who plans to use the boat in the tribe's own educational outreach.

Money raised from the auction of the jerseys will be managed by the Inland Northwestern Community Fund, which will distribute it to local beneficiaries that work to conserve the river, like Trout Unlimited and Spokane Riverkeeper. Fans will also be able to donate money via text, Klein said. Though he said he would love it if they raised \$10,000, Klein emphasized the campaign is more focused on celebrating the river.

The new mascot and the redband jerseys will make their first appearance at Avista Stadium during the home game July 8.

CONTACT THE WRITER:  
(509) 459-5428  
drewg@spokesman.com