The McCloud River redband trout is one of two types of redband trout found in Northern California. These are small rainbow trout with a brick-red band along the sides. 

California Trout is There for the Fish!

California Trout has been extremely active in protecting the McCloud River redband trout through funding provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Orvis for the McCloud Redband Trout Group—a collaborative of natural resource agencies, private landowners, community members, and nonprofit organizations—to pay for the costs of genetic studies and creating educational outreach programs about this distinctive native fish.

The uncertain taxonomic status of California populations reflects the diversity of forms and the long isolation of many populations. McCloud redbans now exist only in two small streams. Within this group, the population at Sheepheaven Creek is so distinctive that some have suggested it be classified as a separate subspecies. The life history of the McCloud River redband trout is similar to that of other redband trout in small streams. Redband trout caught from Sheepheaven Creek were in spawning condition in June. The largest fish caught during a 1973 survey was about eight inches in length and the population at that time was estimated to be 200 fish or more than three inches long.

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