

2016 IF4 FILM EVENT & SPOKANE RIVER FUNDRAISER

Silver Bow Fly Shop / Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited

Study to determine Spokane River Redband Trout use of Hangman Creek:

Hangman (Latah) Creek is a primary tributary to the Spokane River. In the past, salmon and steelhead (the anadromous form of Redband trout) used Hangman creek for spawning and rearing. Agriculture, logging and urbanization have caused degradation of the water quality. Because of this deteriorated state it is not known if our native Redbands currently use or attempt to use the stream.

Phase one of the study will help answer the question of whether or not the resident Spokane River Redbands are using Hangman Creek. The data gathered will help inform habitat restoration and fish management planning.

The project will involve tagging Spokane River Redbands with PIT (passive integrated transponder) tags, installing a PIT tag array near the mouth of Hangman Creek and collecting data on fish passing the array. PIT tag arrays can cost as much as \$10,000. We are hoping that funding gathered at the event can be matched with grants that Spokane Falls TU may have access to.

Spokane Falls Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sponsoring the project. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has offered to help with tagging of fish. The Spokane Tribe of Indians, Eastern Washington University and others have expressed interest in helping with the project.

Lastly, we hope to engage anglers in efforts to collect fish for tagging as a way to encourage the community to gain an understanding of our wild, native Redband trout.

Bill Abrahamse

President, Spokane Falls Chapter of Trout Unlimited