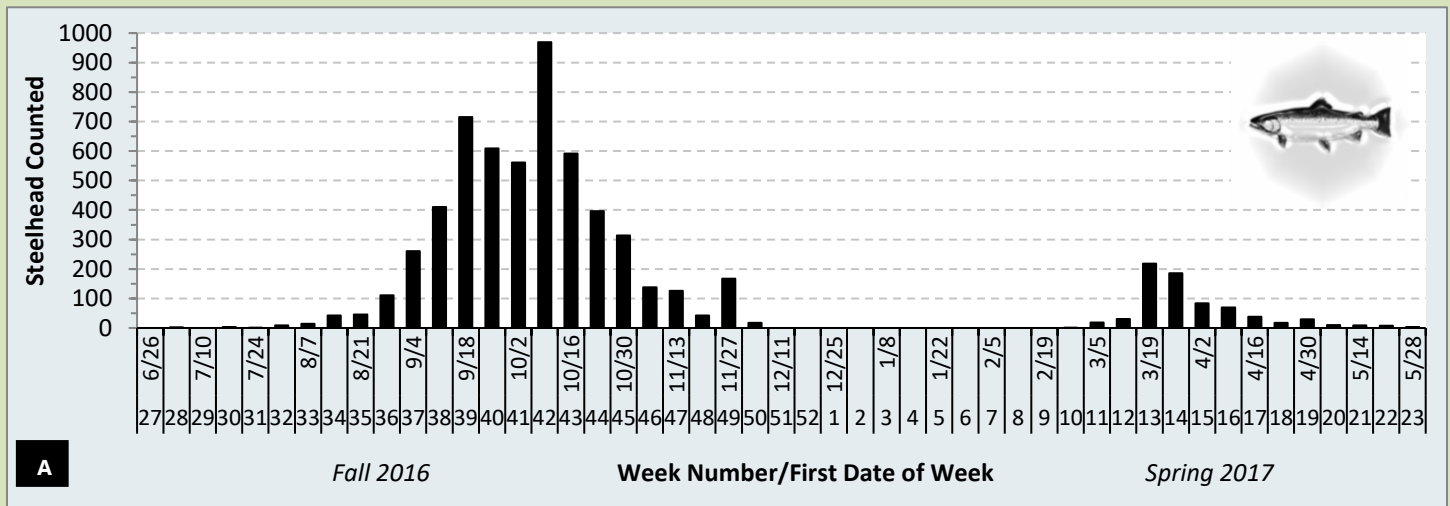


2016 – 2017 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2016 Count	Spring 2017 Count*	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
5,544	724	6,268

* Excludes 54 fin-clipped rainbow trout, likely from Minnesota DNR north shore streams stocking program

The Steelhead run was monitored with digital video equipment during fall 2016 and spring 2017. **Chart A** shows the run timing or “periodicity,” with most Steelhead arriving during the fall. The fall peak occurred during the second week of October (week 42), whereas the spring peak was mid to late-March (week 13). Ice-out (i.e., ice cover no longer present) at Highway 13 occurred on February 20, which was the second earliest date on record and influenced by warm air temperatures at that time. In general, Brule area weather is more consistent in fall than in spring, and fall migration timing responds with more year-to-year consistency. In contrast, the spring migration timing is more variable relative to spring weather patterns, particularly as they influence water temperature and the timing of ice-out.



This year’s 6,268 Steelhead are included in **Chart B**, along with the annual total Steelhead counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 25-year average (1990-2015) is 6,136. Nearly half of all Steelhead in the 2016-2017 run ranged from 20 to 25-inches long, weighed from three to five pounds, and were four to five years old. The early-maturing (three-year-old) Steelhead or “jacks” comprised 20% of the run, ranged in length from 12 to 17 inches, and weighed from one to two pounds. Twenty-three percent of the run equaled or exceeded the minimum legal length limit of 26 inches, with weights from six to nine pounds. The Steelhead population is sustained through natural reproduction, and is therefore variable, yet vibrant. Runs typically fluctuate between 3,500 and 8,500 fish and are expected to continue as the population responds to short and long-term variations in river and lake conditions.

