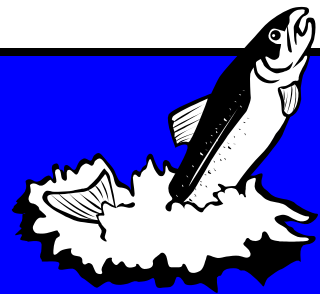


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



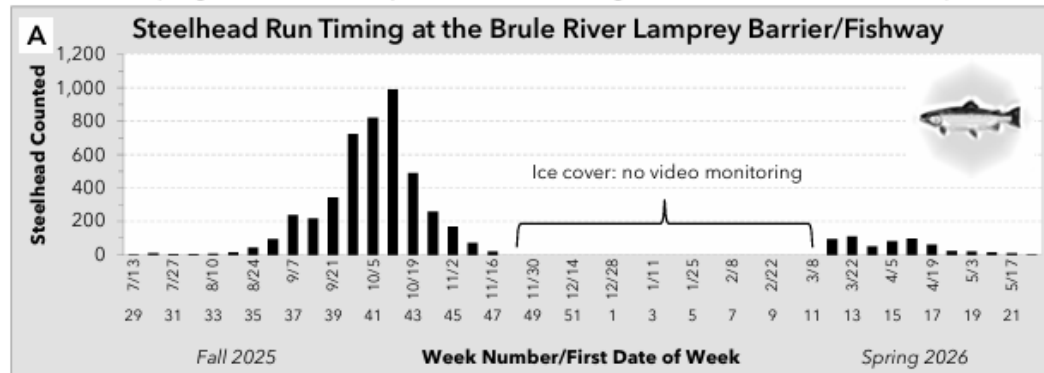
August 2026

OVER 500 MEMBERS DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE BRULE

2025 - 2026 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN, DOUGLAS COUNTY

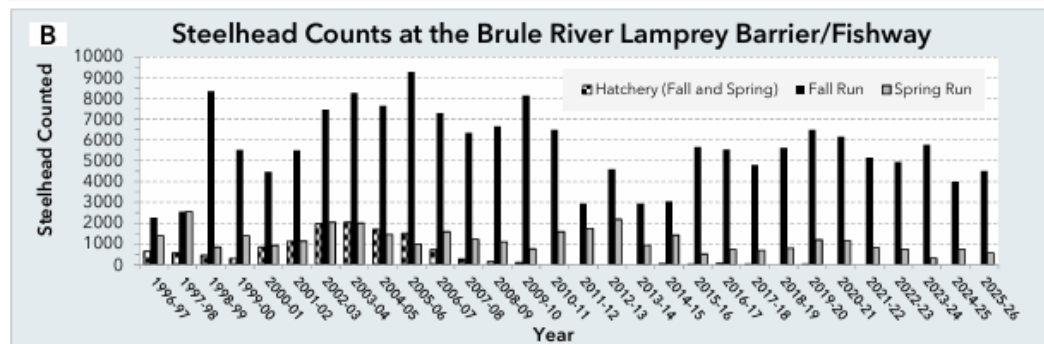
Fall 2025 Count	Spring 2026 Count	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
4497	559	5056

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2025 and spring 2026. Upstream steelhead migration timing (i.e. phenology) was consistent with previous years, when most of the run occurred in the fall compared to the spring (Figure A). Rain events were minimal during the fall migration period and therefore had little effect on run timing. The fall migration peaked in early October, which was common in many previous years. The spring run had two peaks coincidental with ice-out and the start of higher flows. After a winter of constant ice cover, snowmelt sustained moderate to high river flows from opening day through May. These conditions influenced the moderate spring run that was mostly finished before the highest river flows occurred in late April.



This year's 5,056 steelhead are displayed alongside counts from the last 30 years (Figure B). The 36-year average is 6,372, based on the year 1990 inception of the 24-hour per day, seven days per week video monitoring program. Though lower than average, the run reflects a balanced and self-sustaining population that supports a popular recreational fishery. The population's age structure in 2025-2026 is notably younger for a second consecutive year, which in the past has been an indicator of strong years to follow. This naturally reproducing, spring-spawning population typically fluctuates between 3,500 and 8,500 fish in response to the variable environments of the Bois Brule River and Lake Superior.

12-17 inches	20-25 inches	26+ inches
- Age 3 "Jacks"	- Age 4-5	- Age 6 or more
- Roughly 1-2 lbs.	- Roughly 3-5 lbs.	- Roughly 6-9 lbs.
- 14% of the run	- 55% of the run	- 21% of the run



DNR - Lake Superior Fisheries Unit - Superior Office

July 20, 2026



The board meeting will be held at Kro Bar
on Monday, August 24, at 6 p.m.

BRSC Calendar:





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Meeting Minutes July 27, 2026



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at Kro Bar.

Officers and Directors: Present - Ed Chaplinski, Glen Hill, Courtney Johnson, Mick Killoren, Ken Lundberg, Dennis Pratt, Mike Sierszen, Den Smet, Walt Swanson, Jim Waletzko, Dean Wellman, Mike Zicus, and Ken Zivic.

Minutes of the June Meeting: The minutes as written in the July newsletter were approved following a motion by Ken Zivic, second by Mike Zicus, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: President Dennis Pratt reported for Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk that June's beginning balance was \$11,150.42, and the ending balance was \$12,948.56 with the following expenses: ProPrint (May newsletter and raffle tickets) \$336.46; Katie Thompson (June newsletter) \$200; Constant Contact (subscription) \$495.60; Boy Scouts Troop 212 (river clean-up) \$250. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Den Smet, second by Mick Killoren, and unanimous approval by voice vote. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$1,835 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had 2 new members and 2 renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Jim Waletzko and a second by Ken Lundberg.

Committee Reports

Legislative and Audit: Nothing to report.

Education: Den Smet – The Club printed 500 copies of the Rainbow/Salmon ID cards. Distributed one to each board member.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – We will be assisting Paul Piszczek with a brush cutting project on August 8. We'll meet at the Brule Fish Hatchery to brush the section downstream of the hatchery. Chainsaw and replacement chains were purchased for upcoming habitat work. Dennis Pratt sent out a Constant Contact email to remind members of this upcoming event.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – Wyatt Hiltner is planning to attend our August 24th meeting.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Ed dropped some newsletters at Elk River and Philips and Mick dropped some off in Ashland.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Our August newsletter will feature the spring fishway estimates and a short article about the August 8th habitat work.

Other Business

Discussion about Sandy Run Highway 27 sewer issue – Representatives from Town of Brule, Diane Nelson and Amy Eliot, came to the meeting to give us an update on the project. The discussion lasted 40 minutes with several issues and ideas brought forward.

August Fly of the Month – Dean Wellman - EZ Mouse.

Nebagamon Grade Removal Celebration – August 22, noon at the easement itself. Grilling brats and hot dogs with sodas for attending members and project donors.

Raffle status – Mike Sierszen, raffle winners will be chosen at our August 24th meeting. Dennis Pratt will send a Constant Contact reminder regarding the raffle this week.

Next In-person Meeting – Scheduled for August 24.

Upcoming Events – Please check our Club Calendar at <https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/> for the latest events.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Recorded by Walt Swanson



Newly installed culvert on the Little Brule at Ranger Road. Funded by NOAA, USFWS, Town of Brule, and TU.

EZ MOUSE

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

John and Sarah Rodgers ran the first fly shop in Brule out of their old farm house near the Brule River Classic cabins on Hwy 27. John told me about mouse fishing sometime after my Dad bought me my first Fenwick fly rod for my birthday. I remember John saying I should use a deer hair mouse in the late evenings and after dark in the water at the cabin. He said he caught his biggest browns that way. After that, my brother and I could be found casting a deer hair mouse from our canoe in the almost pitch black of night in late July and August.



I never really liked making a mouse by spinning deer hair. I “googled” EZ mouse fly patterns in June, and the Morrish Mouse filled the screen. The EZ mouse is easier to tie than either the spun deer hair mouse or the Morrish Mouse using spun deer hair.

A recipe for the fly can be found at

<https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-August.pdf>.

BRSC Gift Store Order Form (prices include shipping & handling)			
#	Item	Cost	Total
	Lower river map poster of Brule (36"x24")	\$50	
	Women's baseball hat	\$30	
	Lower Brule River map	\$10	
	Upper Brule River map	\$10	
	Men's baseball cap (mesh back)	\$30	
	Limited edition brook trout print	\$40	

The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization defined by Chapter 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.
<https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/>



What We Do:

Fisheries Habitat Projects — Club members and others volunteer during the summer months to restore features necessary for fish spawning, growing, and feeding.

Clean-ups — Keep the Brule clean and beautiful.

Monthly Membership Meetings — Frequently include guest speakers.

Monthly Newsletter — Helps generate understanding of fisheries and water quality, and keeps members and others informed about Club activities.

Scholarship Program — Provides financial support to students.

BRSC Membership Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 e-mail _____

Membership Type: ☐ Renewal (due January 1st) ☐ New Membership

Email newsletter only: ☐ \$20 – Individual ☐ \$25 – Household

Paper newsletter only: ☐ \$30 – Individual ☐ \$35 – Household

Donations

College Scholarship \$ _____ Education \$ _____
 High School Scholarship \$ _____ Habitat \$ _____
 General \$ _____ Multiple \$ _____

Visit us online at www.brulerriversportsmensclub.com

All information contained herein is confidential.
 All but \$1.00 of your membership dues is tax deductible.
 Donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Newsletter editor: Katie Thompson (goirish@cheqnet.net)

Officers

President — Dennis Pratt — prattdd@charter.net
 Vice President — Ed Chaplinski
 Financial Secretary — Dean Wellman
 Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson
 Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk

Board of Directors

Ken Lundberg
 Paul Helbach
 Courtney Johnson
 Mick Killoren
 Glen Hill
 Dennis Smet
 Jim Waletzko
 Mike Sierszen
 Mike Zicus
 Ken Zivic