2007 BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

A total of 11,758 trout and salmon were estimated migrating upstream through the lamprey barrier/fishway during the fall review period from July 7th through November 26th. A drought created crystal clear water conditions throughout the summer period delaying the brown trout run (latest brown trout run on record) and shifting most of their movement to nighttime hours. The brown trout run totaled 3,317 fish with nearly half of them ascending after September 1st. A very large rain event on October 8th slowed movement during that week and occasional fall rains after that time created more normal stained water conditions for the rest of the season. The steelhead run was comprised of 6,345 fish with peak movement during the week following the large rain event. Steelhead in the twenty to twenty four inch size range (2003 and 2004 year classes) dominated this falls run. It appears that the three year old portion of the jack return this fall (2005 year class) may have been negatively impacted by the large October 2005 flood. Also, notice that the stocked portion of the run is declining (last stocked in 2002) as they age and pass out of the fishery. Coho salmon return this year was 1,765, a generally moderate run for the last decade. Other salmonids counted include 314 chinook salmon, 12 pink salmon, two coastal brook trout, two splake, and one lake trout.

Year	Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead Fall	Steelhead Spring	Steelhead Total	Estimated Stocked Steelhead
2004-05	2941	146	1001	7635	1445	9080	1698
2005-06	3265	161	3205	9260	990	10250	1491
2006-07	3167	199	1951	7290	1582	8872	710
2007-08	3317	314	1765	6345			186

STEELHEAD





