2011 BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

A total of 7,291 trout and salmon were estimated migrating upstream through the lamprey barrier/fishway during the fall review period from July 5 through December 3. The steelhead run consisted of 2,933 fish with the peak occurring during mid October. This is the lowest number counted since the fall of 1996 when 2,259 returned. The brown trout run totaled 2,969 fish with two peaks occurring, the second week of August and first week of September. The coho run peaked the last two weeks of September with 1,132 ascending. Other salmonids counted include 208 chinook and 49 pink salmon.

The fall steelhead run was depressed this year relative to the previous 5-10 years. However, in years of low fall runs a compensating increase in spring run size tends to occur which will likely bring the total run numbers closer to historic levels. Also, it seems as though abnormal conditions in both the river (low, stable fall flows) and Lake Superior may have influenced run strength. Finally, the distribution of the run timing shows a bump towards the last week of November/early-December which is not evident in previous years. This suggests that, without a trigger (high flow event, etc.) to initiate and concentrate the spawning run, the fall run was longer and more drawn out lasting until later in the season.

Year	Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead Fall	Steelhead Spring	Steelhead Total	Estimated Stocked Steelhead
2008-09	2890	248	2197	6640	1096	7736	137
2009-10	2809	85	1172	8130	761	8891	96
2010-11	3090	109	1272	6488	1584	8072	0
2011-12	2969	208	1132	2933			





