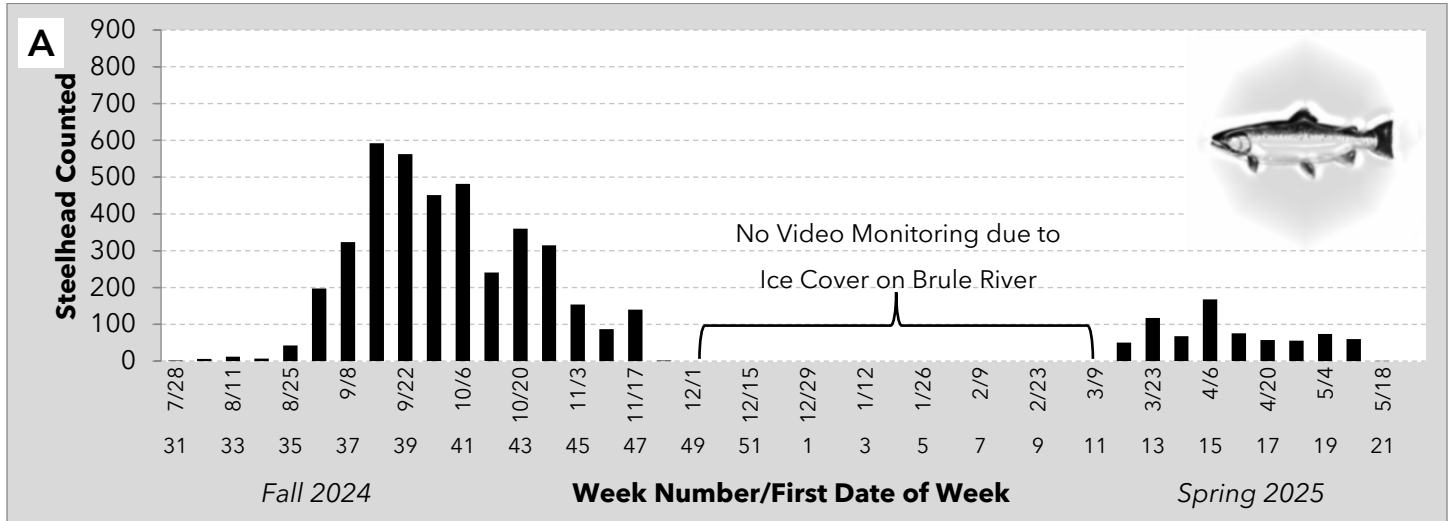


2024 - 2025 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN, DOUGLAS COUNTY

Fall 2024 Count	Spring 2025 Count	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
3989	727	4716

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2024 and spring 2025. Steelhead phenology (i.e. upstream migration timing) was consistent with previous years; the majority of fish arrived in the fall and overwintered in the lower river (Figure A). The fall migration peaked in mid-September. Fluctuating environmental conditions, such as temperature and rainfall, influenced weekly steelhead movement in the nine weeks following the peak during week 38. Spring peak migration occurred in early April, like previous runs. Ice cover on the Brule was more consistent this year and runoff sustained moderate flows from March to May. These favorable conditions opened the way for an average spring run especially compared to the previous years early ice out and low flows.



This year's 4,716 steelhead are displayed alongside counts from the last 30 years below (Figure B). The 33-year average is 6,144. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining and supportive of a strong recreational fishery. The age structure of the population is notably younger than previous years which in the past has been a predictor 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.

12-17inches

- Age 3 "Jacks"
- Roughly 1-2lbs.
- 16% of the run

20-25inches

- Age 4-5
- Roughly 3-5lbs.
- 55% of the run

26+inches

- Age 6 or more
- Roughly 6-9 lbs.
- 20% of the run

