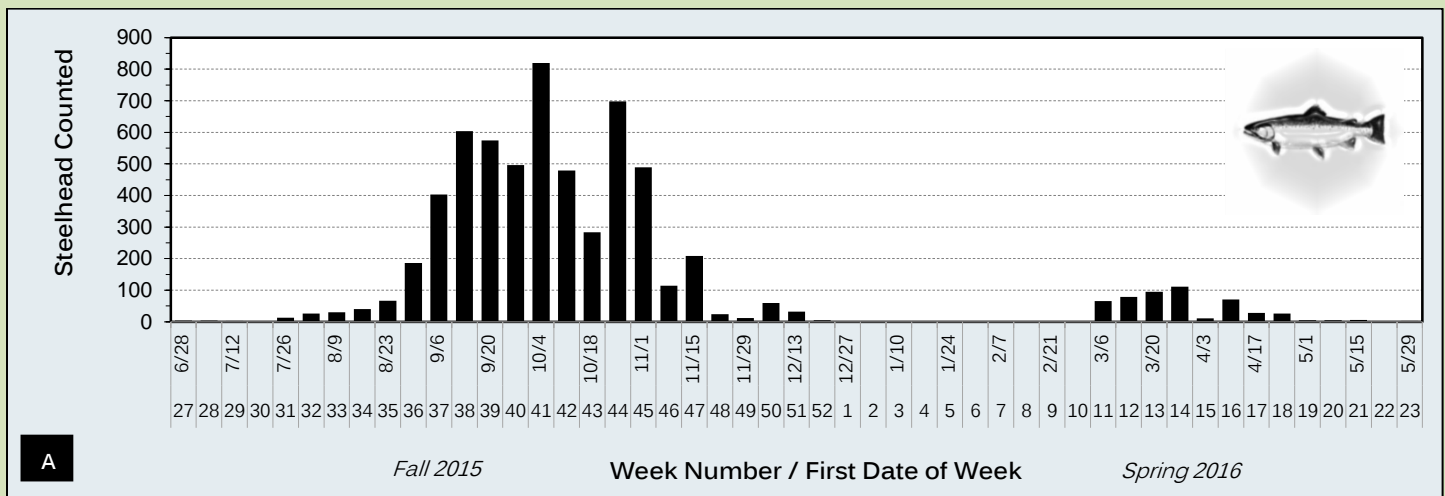


2015 - 2016 BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2015 Count	Spring 2016 Count*	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
5,660	507	6,167

* Excludes 18 fin-clipped rainbow trout, likely from Minnesota DNR north shore streams stocking program

The Steelhead run was monitored with digital video equipment during fall 2015 and spring 2016. **Chart A** shows run the timing or “periodicity,” with most Steelhead arriving during the fall. The fall peak occurred during the second week of October (week 41) and the spring peak was in late-March (week 14). A few warm days in the spring coincided with the spring peak, yet consistently low water temperatures were common in the lower river during March and early-April. 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 6,167 Steelhead are included in **Chart B**, along with the annual total Steelhead counts since video monitoring began in 1990. Five and six-year-old fish were common, and they ranged from 21 to 29 inches long. Nearly 62% of the run was 20 to 25 inches long and weighed from three to five pounds. Twenty-five percent of the run equaled or exceeded the minimum legal length limit of 26 inches, with weights from six to 10 pounds. The early-maturing (three-year-old) Steelhead or “jacks” comprised nine percent of the run, which is typical for the river.

