

# 2013 BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

A total of 9,194 trout and salmon were counted passing the lamprey barrier/fishway during the upstream migration monitoring period June 30 through December 5, 2013. As is typical for the Brule River, brown trout, coho salmon, and steelhead were the three most prevalent migratory salmonids (see table, below). The run consisted of 38% brown trout, 32% steelhead, and 28% coho salmon. The past three fall seasons saw brown trout and coho salmon combining to outnumber steelhead. This was typical through most of the 1990s and early 2000s, but steelhead outnumbered brown trout and coho salmon from 2003 through 2011. Upstream migrants also included 168 Chinook salmon, three brook trout, three pink salmon, and two splake.

Year	Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead (Fall)	Steelhead (Spring)	Steelhead Total	Stocked Steelhead
2009-10	2809	85	1172	8130	761	8891	96
2010-11	3090	109	1272	6488	1584	8072	0
2011-12	2969	208	1132	2933	1739	4672	0
2012-13	3656	332	2060	4594	2177	6771	0
2013-14	3475	168	2619	2924	-	-	0

The run timing (also known as “periodicity”) of brown trout, coho salmon, and steelhead is shown in the graph, below. Brown trout peaked during the last week of August, nearly one month later than the previous year, perhaps due to prolonged snowfall and cold air temperatures in Spring 2013. Coho salmon peaked during the first week of October and steelhead peaked during the second week of October, both of which were earlier than the previous year. These peaks occurred on the heels of increasing river flows and decreasing water temperatures that preceded relatively early ice cover and heavy snowfall during the first week of December.

