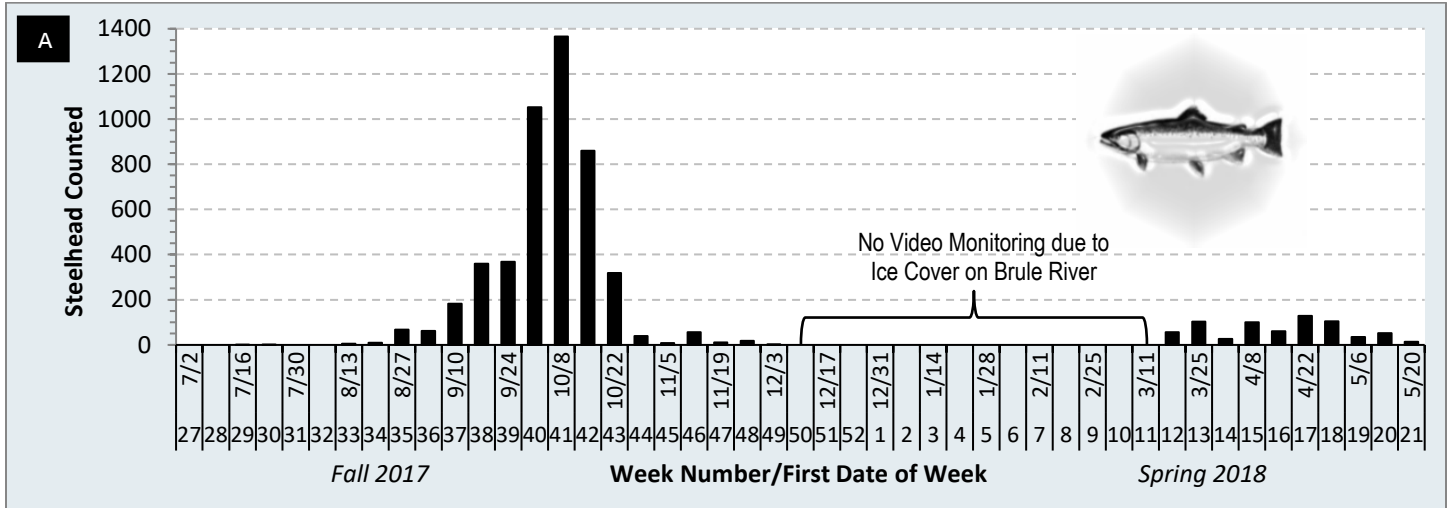


2017 – 2018 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2017 Count	Spring 2018 Count*	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
4,788	681	5,469

* 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 2017 and spring 2018. **Chart A** shows the run timing or “periodicity,” with most Steelhead arriving during the fall. The fall peak occurred during the second week of October (week 41), whereas the spring peak was late April (week 17). Ice-out (i.e., ice cover no longer present) at Highway 13 occurred on March 17. 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 5,469 Steelhead are included in **Chart B**, along with the annual total Steelhead counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 28-year average (1990-2018) is 6,116. Half of all Steelhead in the 2017-2018 run ranged from 20 to 25-inches long, weighed from three to five pounds, and were four to five years old. The early-maturing (three-year-old) Steelhead or “jacks” comprised 23% of the run, ranged in length from 12 to 17 inches, and weighed from one to two pounds. Sixteen percent of the run equaled or exceeded the minimum legal length limit of 26 inches, with weights from six to nine pounds. The Steelhead population is sustained through natural reproduction, and is therefore variable, yet vibrant. Runs typically fluctuate between 3,500 and 8,500 fish and are expected to continue as the population responds to short and long-term variations in river and lake conditions.

