2015 BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

Trout and salmon migration was monitored with digital video equipment from July 1 through December 31, 2015. 5,660 steelhead, 3,930 brown trout, and 1,680 coho salmon were counted, along with 278 Chinook salmon, two brook trout, 47 pink salmon, and eight splake. 62% of all counted steelhead ranged from 20 to 25 inches long, and nearly 10% were 12 to 17 inches long, which is within the range of those counted during the past 10 years. 42% of all coho salmon were 19 to 22 inches, and 83% of all brown trout were 18 to 24 inches. See the charts, below, to compare all previous counts to 2015.

The fall 2015 run timing (i.e., “periodicity”) of steelhead, brown trout, and coho salmon is shown in the chart, below. For nearly nine consecutive weeks (except for week 43), steelhead exhibited movements of 400 or more fish. This is much different than the past three of four fall seasons, when steelhead counts exceeded 400 fish for only two or three weeks.