Steelhead migration was monitored with digital video equipment during fall and spring. Chart A shows run timing, or “periodicity.” The fall 2014 peak occurred during the second week of October (Week 42), which is typical for the river, and the spring 2015 peak occurred during mid-March after a relatively early “ice-out.” Spring run peaks often occur with fluctuating river flows and water temperatures. River conditions were relatively low and clear in the spring (peak flow around 250 cfs at the Ranger Station), which created good access and fishing conditions.

This year’s 4,420 steelhead are included in Chart B, along with the annual total steelhead counts since video monitoring began in 1990. Nearly 66% of steelhead in this year’s run were 22 to 25 inches long, and 10% exceeded 26 inches. Approximately six percent (262 fish) were 12” to 17” long. This length group often includes early-maturing steelhead or “jacks,” of which the counts have typically fluctuated between 300 and 900. In the mid-2000s, as the hatchery steelhead aged out of the fishery, the wild steelhead counts continued with relative consistency through spring 2011. The fall count decreased by 55% in fall 2011 and remained at that level for two of three successive fall seasons, including 2014.