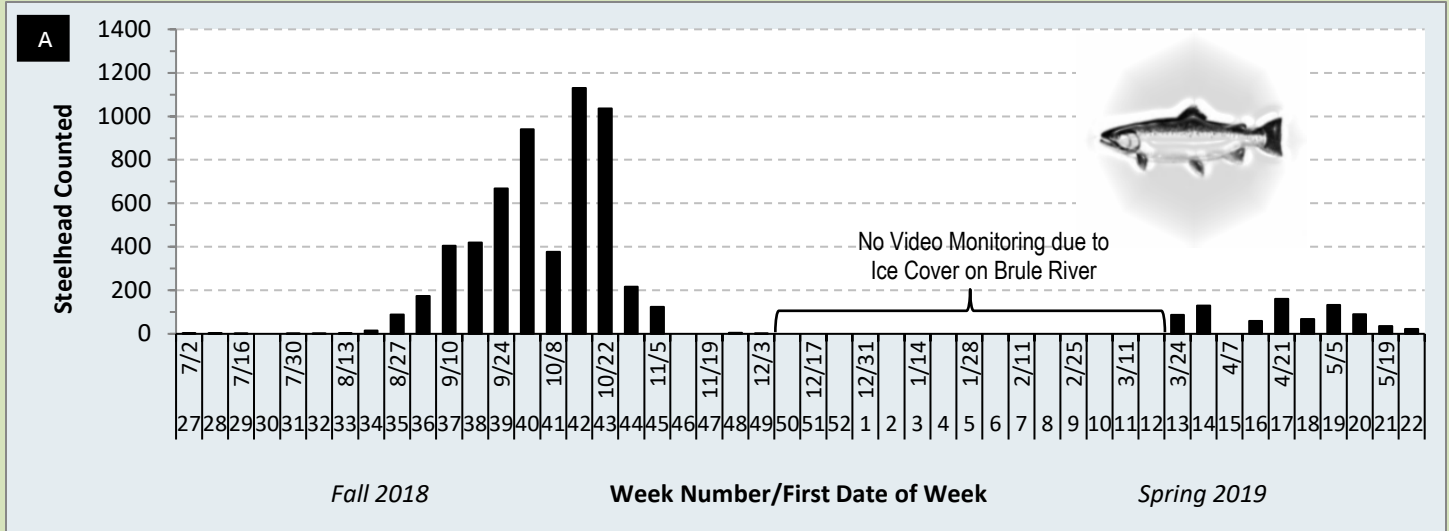


# 2018 – 2019 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2018 Count	Spring 2019 Count	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
5,616	788	6,404

The Steelhead run was monitored with digital video equipment during fall 2018 and spring 2019. Chart A shows the run timing or “periodicity,” with most Steelhead arriving during the fall. The fall peak occurred in mid-October (week 42 and 43), whereas the spring peak occurred in late April through early May (weeks 17 - 19). Ice-out (i.e., ice cover no longer present) at Highway 13 occurred on March 22. 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 6,404 Steelhead are included in Chart B, along with the annual total Steelhead counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 29-year average (1990-2019) is 6,216. 55% of all Steelhead in the 2018-2019 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 19% of the run, ranged in length from 12 to 17 inches, and weighed from one to two pounds. Eight 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.

