



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Bull Shoals (AR Hub): Sunny Warm-Up, Dawn Points & Soft USACE Boards

Bull Shoals Lake · Arkansas hub Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 bank / kayak / boat

Highs ~82° Mon → ~89° Wed (NWS LZK) CT clocks · mostly fair early week

USACE boards thin at evening pull Soft recreational · no named trail event pulled

Bull Shoals draws a mostly fair late-September card — cool Monday morning, then a climb into the upper 80s by Wednesday. Pack sunscreen more than storm gear early, keep a shell for Wednesday night showers, and let the first light point tell you if the shad are still walking shallow.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Little Rock (LZK) north grid band pin for **north** paints this Friday–Sunday **Cast** window. At pull: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 7am, then showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a high near 72. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation... Local clocks on this water run Central Time — dawn windows shift with the angler.

FRIDAY OCT 2

72°F chance showers and thunderstorms then showers and thunderstorms · night ~60°F slight chance rain showers. Winds 5 to 15 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

SATURDAY OCT 3

71°F slight chance rain showers then mostly cloudy · night ~61°F mostly cloudy. Winds 10 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

SUNDAY OCT 4

76°F mostly sunny · night ~56°F mostly clear. Winds 5 to 10 mph. Fish dawn and last light first when skies harden.

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

Unsettled air and shower/storm chances put a premium on **pre-front and lull windows**. Fish tighter to cover before cells; after a pass, work muddy/clear seams and windblown banks. Slide into creek arms if lightning walks in.

Day cards from the locked weather-band representative pin (north), pulled Friday morning for the Fri–Sun window. Check live dam boards before you idle over a seam.

Bull Shoals Arkansas shore still rewards a two-speed plan this weekend: cover water early on main-lake points and bluff ends with a squarebill or spinnerbait, then settle into 18–28 ft ledges and brush with a football jig or Carolina rig once the sun hardens. If generation is rolling below the dam corridor, fish the first current seams with a jig or crank and keep the boat in the stain line. Bank and kayak anglers should lean on the Lead Hill / Diamond City public access pockets and secondary creek mouths rather than fighting weekend boat traffic on the big water.

Shad and bluegill remain the forage story — match profile and keep a topwater for the last half-hour of light on calm pockets. Foggy dawns favor a slow-rolled spinnerbait just under the surface film before you dig deeper.

● GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

USACE Southwestern Division public generation calendars for Bull Shoals were **thin / not confirmed as a full Fri–Sun unit block at evening pull**. Confirm USACE lake and generation pages before you set up on a dam-end seam.

REACH	FRI–SUN NOTE	FAILOVER
Bull Shoals Lake (AR hub)	Elevation and ramp status rule access more than a blank unit calendar. Soft recreational week under sunny skies.	USACE SWL lake report · New Lead Hill / Lead Hill recreation pages · marina boards
Dam-end / White River tailwater	Boards thin for unit timing. Tailwater trout corridor is a separate fishery with its own regs and tactics when you leave the lake.	USACE generation notices · on-water observation · posted restricted lines
Creek arms / points (Lead Hill corridor)	Quiet generation: fish points and brush early; slide to piles and ledges mid-day. If units pulse, bait often stacks on the first legal current break.	Graph + birds · visual current seams outside restricted water

Soft bite notes if units stay quiet: points and brush at dawn; docks and brush piles late morning; deeper ledges mid-day with electronics. Restricted dam zones stay closed. Missouri shoreline is out of scope for this Arkansas hub product except a brief border awareness note under shared-water policy.

Practical check: open the USACE lake page for Bull Shoals, note pool vs yesterday, and confirm the ramp you plan to use is open. When the unit calendar is blank, fish the water in front of you. Birds, bait on the graph, and any visible current seam outside restricted lines are the live tells.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

AR-side public access near **Lead Hill / New Lead Hill USACE / Diamond City** corridor — fees and ramp status verify live on USACE recreation pages. Work points and brush within legal bank access at dawn.

Shared: hydrate; Wednesday's heat and any late shower can cut a bank session short. Stay out of dam-restricted zones. MO shoreline out of scope for this hub's bank plan.

KAYAK

Lead Hill area public ramps when open; fish creek arms and brush away from main-channel traffic. Wind on the main body matters — have a bailout shoreline and a PFD on every trip.

Clear sunny afternoons bring recreational traffic; keep to quieter arms after mid-morning if ski wakes start rolling the main lake.

Pack a short rod for tight brush pockets and a longer spinning setup for point casting when you slide out of the arm. If Wednesday's late shower chance turns into wind, abort the open fetch early and finish along a protected bank rather than fighting whitecaps back to the ramp.

BOAT

Plan: **first light--~9 AM CT** on points and brush; late morning brush piles and docks; mid-day deeper structure with electronics. Soft USACE generation language only when boards show units — never fish restricted turbine water.

Launch early Lead Hill corridor. Named access this cycle: New Lead Hill / Lead Hill USACE area (Diamond City approaches).

Electronics tip: idle a known point at dawn and mark bait height before the first cast — adjust topwater vs jig based on where the cloud sits.

Boat control on clear sunny afternoons matters as much as lure choice: keep the trolling motor on a lower setting when you slide into a brush pocket, and give other boats the outside lane on popular Lead Hill points. Soft midweek pressure is not zero pressure once the day warms up.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait bone/chrome at dawn on main-lake points. Poppers over brush on slick Monday mornings. Buzzbait black/blue along shady banks Tuesday–Wednesday evenings.

MID

Spinnerbait white/chartreuse on windy points. Squarebill citrus on riprap and bluff transitions. Soft swimbait for suspended fish over channel swings mid-day.

BOTTOM

Green pumpkin creature in brush. Brown football jig on point drops and ledge edges. Drop-shot shad pattern when water is clear and fish are finicky under high sun.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Late September on Bull Shoals is a **post-summer / early fall transition**. Largemouth still use points, brush, and docks; they have not fully committed to a deep winter ledge-only pattern. Cool Monday nights support a strong dawn shallow feed; upper-80s afternoons push fish to shade and depth by late morning. Handle quickly in warm water; watch livewells if you are cull-fishing Wednesday.

Spawning is done. Fish feed and comfort one morning at a time — this week's forecast does not show a dramatic turnover headline.

On Bull Shoals the same transition plays differently by zone: main-lake points and bluff ends for fish still chasing shad in clearer water; creek-arm brush and docks for fish that want shade once the afternoon heat loads up. If you only have one morning, start on a windward point at dawn and rotate to a brush pile before the sun is high — that single rotation covers most of what this week's weather is offering.

● FORAGE THIS WEEK

Most likely menu: **threadfin and gizzard shad** on points and creek mouths, with bluegill around brush and docks. Hatch reports are thin. Match the bait on the graph; birds working a point at dawn remain the best free tip on this lake.

If Wednesday night showers dirty a few arms, Thursday's stain line (next window) often concentrates bait on the first clean edge — file that for the Friday **Cast** rather than forcing it into this Monday product. For Fri–Sun, fish the clear-water shad match until a storm actually changes the color.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Crappie: brush piles and docks — minnows/jigs early and late. **Catfish:** cut bait on deeper channel swings. **White bass:** soft language on generation seams when units are confirmed. Tailwater trout below the dam are a different fishery — separate regs and a separate product mindset.

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: No named national trail event pulled for Bull Shoals AR hub Mon Sep 28 – Wed Sep 30. Soft midweek recreational pressure under sunny skies; weekend traffic is a looking-ahead note. Regs: AGFC freshwater limits (confirm live). Reciprocal / border awareness if you cross toward MO water — confirm live.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): If nights keep easing and a cooler pulse arrives in early October, expect stronger dawn topwater and more bait in the backs of creeks. Keep pulling USACE elevation before you trust last month's ramp. Fall foliage traffic on the Ozarks scenic routes does not always mean more boats on the water — but sunny weekend afternoons will still stack the Lead Hill corridor. Midweek remains the quieter play. Next **Cast:** Friday window Fri–Sun. Watch the first true cool front of October for a sharper shallow morning bite. Until then, this week's pattern — cool dawn, warm afternoon, soft generation boards — is the card to fish.

Pure-Gas.org E0 · this water

Saved Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free notes for the Mountain Home / Lead Hill approach (stations only; confirm E0 grade at the pump):

- **Mountain Home / Lead Hill corridor** — US-62 / AR-14 approaches · confirm current Pure-Gas.org listings / call ahead for E0 grade
- **Local marina fuel** — Lead Hill / Diamond City area marinas · often *not* E0 — ask grade before you fill

Nearby ethanol-free (E0) listing from Pure-Gas.org for this water. No pump prices published on purpose. Confirm grade and hours on site.

SOURCES

NWS Little Rock / Bull Shoals corridor (Friday morning CT pull) · USACE SWL lake / generation pages (calendars thin at pull) · Pure-Gas.org notes (reuse) · AGFC regs (live) · Trail calendars skimmed (no named event confirmed for this window).