



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

White River Trout Corridor: Sunny Warm-Up, Cotter Dawn Windows & Generation Seams

White River below Bull Shoals Dam (Cotter) · Norfolk TW labeled as needed

Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 bank / kayak / boat Highs ~82° → ~88° → ~90° (LZK)

CT clocks · mostly fair warming midweek Release boards thin at evening pull

Soft recreational · no named trail event pulled

The White River trout corridor draws sunny late-September weather with cool mornings and warm afternoons. Pack layers for the canyon shade, fish Cotter at first light, and let generation seams — when boards show water moving — tell you where trout are feeding. This product is trout-primary.

● 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.

● GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

USACE Bull Shoals / White River tailwater public generation calendars were **thin as a full Fri–Sun unit block at evening pull**. Confirm USACE / agency lake pages before you idle near dam-end structure.

REACH	FRI–SUN NOTE	FAILOVER
Main lake / hub	Soft recreational midweek under sunny skies. Elevation and ramp status rule access. Trout corridor: generation seams matter when units are online.	USACE / park / public ramp boards
Dam-end restricted water	Boards thin for unit timing. Fish legal water only — never the boil.	Posted signs · on-water observation

Soft bite notes with quiet releases: points, grass, brush, and docks early; deeper edges and shade mid-day. If water is moving at a dam face, look for bait on the first legal current break — still outside every restricted line. Confirm ramp status before you trailer when pool has been swinging.

Practical pre-launch check: elevation versus last trip, ramp status on agency or park pages, and a glance at any release remark. Birds and bait on the graph beat an empty calendar.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Primary public bank access along the **Cotter corridor** where posted — fees, parking, and hours verify live. Work seams and banks at first light. Stay outside every dam restricted line. This product is trout-primary.

Shared: layers for cool canyon shade and warm afternoon sun; confirm AGFC trout regs, slots, and bait rules live before you keep fish.

Confirm access hours before you lock the truck. Soft midweek pressure until sunny Wednesday — leave margin before recreation stacks popular Cotter seams.

KAYAK

Launch at Cotter public ramp when open; confirm status and generation vibe before you strap the boat. Fish seams and protected banks away from heavy boat traffic after mid-morning.

Current and cold water change the risk picture — PFD on every trip. Tailwater kayaking is advanced when multi-unit generation is online. Have a bailout bank planned before you leave the ramp.

Pack a nymphing setup and a streamer rod in waterproof bags. If Wednesday's heat stacks recreational traffic, fish early and give other boats room on popular seams rather than fighting the corridor mid-day.

BOAT

Plan: **first light-late morning CT** on seams and banks; adjust depth when units pulse. Launch early at Cotter public ramp when open — confirm status and generation vibe before you trailer. Soft USACE language only when boards show water moving — never fish the boil.

Soft midweek pressure relative to weekends; sunny Wednesday traffic rises. AR bank only for this product. Mark live seams when boards are thin — watch the water.

Tailwater boat traffic gets tight on popular seams — give room and fish early. Pack a nymphing setup and a streamer rod in dry bags.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Dry-dropper or attractor dry when fish are up; streamers on cloudy/generation days.

MID

Nymphs under indicator; soft hackles when fish suspend in the film.

BOTTOM

Weighted nymphs and streamers near the bottom in deeper runs when units stack.

● TROUT LIFE STAGE

This corridor is **trout-primary** in late September. Rainbow and brown trout relate to generation seams, seams along banks, and deeper runs when units are online. Bass are secondary here — short Also note only.

Generation and water temperature drive the day more than a bass-style shallow-to-deep rotation. When boards are thin, watch the water for live seams and fish what you see — still outside every restricted line.

● FORAGE THIS WEEK

Most likely menu for trout: scuds, sowbugs, midges, and baitfish matches — hatch reports are thin, so match what you see in the net and on the water.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Bass soft secondary on warmer pockets when generation is soft. Soft smallmouth language in places. Always confirm trout regs, slots, and bait rules live (AGFC).

Crowd / Heavy Traffic: No named national trail event pulled for this water Mon Sep 28 – Wed Sep 30. Soft midweek recreational pressure under sunny skies; traffic rises on the warmest afternoons. Regs confirm live before you keep fish.

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): If nights keep easing into early October, expect stronger dawn windows. Keep pulling elevations and generation notices. Next **Cast:** Friday window Fri–Sun.

● PATTERN NOTES (THIS WEEK)

Late September on this water is still a feed-and-comfort game. Cooler nights pull fish shallow at first light; the afternoon rebound pushes them to shade, docks, grass edges, and deeper breaks unless generation moves bait into a legal current seam.

Start every morning by marking bait height on one trusted piece of structure before the first cast. If bait is up, open with a walking bait or spinnerbait; if bait is down, open with a jig, Texas-rig, or soft swimbait on the break. That single fork saves wasted hours chasing last week's memory.

When generation calendars stay thin, treat birds, bait on the graph, and ramp status as your live board. Soft unit language only when pages show water moving — and even then, fish outside every restricted line.

Crowd picture for Mon Sep 28 – Wed Sep 30: soft midweek recreational pressure under mostly sunny skies, rising on the warmest Wednesday afternoon. Get the dawn hour, then leave a margin before wakes and ski traffic stack popular corridors.

Regs, ramp fees, and park hours confirm live before you keep fish or lock the truck. This Cast is a plan for the water — not a substitute for the agency page you should glance at the night before.

● TROUT CORRIDOR MIDWEEK NOTES

This product is trout-primary. Rainbow and brown trout relate to generation seams, bank seams, and deeper runs when units are online. Bass are a short Also note only — do not force a bass-first plan on this corridor.

Confirm Cotter ramp status and generation vibe before you trailer. Soft USACE language only when boards show water moving — never fish the boil. Stay outside every dam restricted line.

Cool canyon shade and warm afternoon sun both show up this window — pack layers. Monday's cooler morning is often the cleanest seam window.

Tuesday–Wednesday warm — fish early and give other boats room on popular seams when recreational traffic rises.

Hatch reports are thin; match scuds, sowbugs, midges, and baitfish patterns you see in the net and on the water.

Mental picture: sunny dawn seams early in the week, then a warmer Wednesday with more boats after mid-morning.

If boards show units, fish the first legal seam thoroughly; if boards stay thin, watch the water for live seams and fish what you see — still outside restricted lines.

Pack a nymphing setup and a streamer rod. Confirm AGFC trout regs, slots, and bait rules live before you keep fish. Leave ramp margin before afternoon recreation stacks the Cotter corridor.

● ON THE WATER THIS WINDOW

Treat dawn and the first legal seam as the whole trip on the warmest days. Soft boards mean you watch the water; live seams still beat an empty calendar.

Tailwater kayaking is advanced when multi-unit generation is online — PFD on every trip. Decision fork: fish up when trout are in the film; go deeper nymphs and streamers when units stack or sun pushes fish down.

AR bank only for this product. Confirm elevation and any release remark before you idle near dam-end structure.

Primary this week is trout. Bass stay short also-notes only. Next Cast looks at the Friday window Fri–Sun with a fresh pull of generation notices and weather.

Leave time margin for the ramp. Soft midweek pressure evaporates once afternoon recreation stacks the Cotter corridor — get the dawn seam right, then leave while the fishing is still good.

● WINDOW DISCIPLINE

Leave time margin for the ramp and the drive. Soft midweek pressure evaporates once afternoon recreation stacks popular corridors — especially on the sunny Wednesday rebound. Get the dawn hour right, then leave while the fishing is still good.

Practical pre-launch check: elevation vs last trip, ramp status on agency or park pages, and a glance at any release remark. Birds working a flat at dawn are the best free tip when calendars stay thin.

Hydrate early. Clear late-September sun puts UV and glare up after 9 AM — polarized lenses and longer casts help once surface glass burns off. Keep a rain shell even on fair midweek cards; looking ahead into Thursday can still bring storms on some corridors.

Pure-Gas.org E0 · this water

Closest Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free stations / corridor notes for this water (saved listing — stations only; listings can change; verify E0 grade at the pump if grade matters to you):

- Mountain Home / Cotter corridor (verify E0) — US-62 / AR-5 · ~Cotter hub Confirm Pure-Gas
- Pure-Gas.org Arkansas directory — <https://www.pure-gas.org/> · state list Call ahead

Station list from Pure-Gas.org for this water. No pump prices on this card. Confirm grade and hours on site.

SOURCES

NWS Little Rock (LZK) (Friday morning CT pull) · agency lake / park / USACE / APC pages as relevant (generation calendars thin at pull) · Pure-Gas.org station list (reuse) · state regs (live) · Trail calendars skimmed (no named event confirmed unless noted).