



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST

Pueblo: Sunny Weekend Warm-Up, Quiet Releases & Dawn Smallmouth

Pueblo Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times in MT

Sunny · Fri ~73° → Sat ~80° → Sun ~74° MT

Primary: smallmouth bass

USACE / park release boards thin at this pull · verify before you go

Weekend recreational builds Sat–Sun · no named trail event pulled

A quiet high-pressure weekend over Pueblo — chase smallmouth on rock and wind seams at first light, then slide deeper once the sun and ski traffic climb the South Shore.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

National Weather Service Pueblo's point forecast for the reservoir frames a dry, sunny weekend for the **Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026** window. Read every clock in this Cast as **MT**. Friday opens sunny near **73°F** after a cool overnight near **45°F**, with southeast breeze 0–15 mph and almost no rain chance. Saturday is the warmest of the three — roughly **80°F / 51°F** under sunny skies and light west wind 0–10 mph. Sunday settles near **74°F / 49°F**, sunny, with northeast breeze 0–15 mph. No active watches or warnings for Pueblo County at this pull. Treat barometer as steady-fair under this quiet pattern.

For **smallmouth bass**, that pattern favors **first light through mid-morning** on rocky points, riprap, and wind-stacked banks while air is still cool, then a slide to the first break, marina shade, and deeper rock once the sun clears the dam face. Midday warmth will push fish deeper or tighter to shade — slow down, fish rock transitions, and save long runs for when the breeze lays down. Friday is the softer traffic day; Saturday and Sunday recreational pressure builds around South Shore and North Shore ramps. **No named national trail event was pulled** for this water on Oct 2–4.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~73°F

Low ~45° · dry · SE 0–15
mph

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:55 AM · Sunset

~6:40 PM MT

*Best bite: first light—~10 AM;
softest weekend traffic*

SATURDAY OCT 3

~80°F

Low ~51° · dry · W 0–10
mph

Sunny / clear night

Sunrise ~6:56 AM · Sunset

~6:38 PM MT

*Best bite: dawn rock; shade
and deeper breaks after 11
AM*

SUNDAY OCT 4

~74°F

Low ~49° · dry · NE 0–15
mph

Sunny

Sunrise ~6:57 AM · Sunset

~6:37 PM MT

*Best bite: dawn shallow
rock; mid-day slow on the
break*

● LEVEL & FLOW CHEAT SHEET

Pueblo Reservoir is a USACE / Colorado Parks & Wildlife managed lake. Public release and elevation boards were thin at this pull — no fresh Fri–Sun generator calendar loaded for recreational anglers. Treat any dam release, lake-level advisory, or park notice as live. Failover: check the USACE Pueblo project page and Colorado Parks & Wildlife Lake Pueblo notices the morning you launch, and call the marina desk if you need a same-day condition read. Schedules and advisories can change without notice.

WATER	OBSERVED	FLOW / BOARDS	HOW TO FISH IT
Pueblo Reservoir (USACE / CPW)	Elevation / release string thin at this pull	No fixed Fri–Sun public release calendar pulled	Fish rock, points, and wind seams; treat any flow change as a live check, not a schedule

Dam and restricted zones stay off-limits whether flows are quiet or moving. If a local advisory, fire restriction, or temporary closure appears on the park page, that overrides any general weekend outlook here.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Work the **South Shore** rock and riprap near the main park day-use areas for smallmouth that cruise shallow at first light. The **North Shore Marina** shoreline and rock points give you wind-blown banks without a long hike when the breeze is up. Fan-cast parallel to the rocks with a tube or Ned, then pick apart individual boulders and shade seams once the sun climbs. Stay on public or permitted park shoreline only, and give swimming beaches and boat lanes a wide berth after mid-morning on the weekend.

KAYAK

Launch at **South Shore** or **North Shore** ramps and paddle onto the nearest rock point before ski traffic wakes up. Target the outside rock, isolated boulders, and any wind-stacked bank within a short paddle — Pueblo rewards covering water, but a kayak shines when you slow down on the first bait mark instead of racing the whole reservoir. Wear a PFD, mind afternoon winds that can stack on the long fetches, and leave room for powerboats near popular ramps Saturday and Sunday. A light spinning setup with a Ned rig and a small crank covers most of the weekend window without a full rod locker.

BOAT

Public ramps at **South Shore** and **North Shore Marina** put you on rock points, riprap, and main-lake breaks quickly. Start shallow on the shaded rock at first light with a walking bait or small topwater, then rotate to a tube, Ned, or compact crank on wind-blown points and follow up with a drop-shot or football jig once fish short-strike. Midday, slide to the first break, marina shade, and deeper rock rather than burning fuel across the whole lake. Keep a spotter when running, give ski boats space on busy weekend lanes, and stay clear of any posted dam or intake area.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Closest public **ethanol-free (E0)** listings from Pure-Gas.org near Pueblo Reservoir. Listings can change — confirm the E0 grade at the pump if that matters for your motor. No pump prices in this Cast.

- **North Shore Marina** — Pueblo West, CO · ~1.0 mi · E0 octane 91 · 719-547-3880
- **South Shore Marina** — Pueblo, CO · ~1.7 mi · E0 octane 91 · 719-564-1043
- **Murphy USA** — Pueblo, CO · ~5.2 mi · E0 octane 87 · 719-315-7568
- **Circle K** — Pueblo, CO · ~9.4 mi · E0 octane 87 · 719-716-9988

Call ahead when you can — E0 availability changes. Distances are rough estimates to this water.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait and a small popper over calm rock points at dawn. Bone, chrome, and black are the first three colors out of the box when the surface is slick.

MID

Compact crank, spinnerbait, or small chatterbait on wind-blown rock; tube and Ned on the same cast once fish short-strike. Craw and shad patterns cover most Pueblo stains.

BOTTOM

Drop-shot, football jig, and a Texas-rig craw for deeper rock or finicky midday fish. Green pumpkin, brown, and junebug cover the usual reservoir colors.

Match size to **crawfish and baitfish** first. Size down when fish short-strike; size up when you mark bigger bait on the graph. Primary species this week is **smallmouth bass**.

● SMALLMOUTH BASS LIFE STAGE

Spawn is long over on Pueblo. This weekend window is about **post-summer feeding** as nights cool and bait pushes toward rock edges and points. Expect smallmouth to cruise shallow rock in the morning and to slide to the first break and marina shade once the sun and ski traffic climb. Fish the bait you see — craws on rock, bait dimples on calm water, or graph marks on a break — rather than a calendar myth. If a cooler night sharpens the morning bite, stay shallow longer; if Saturday's warmth arrives early, shorten the topwater window and commit to deeper rock and slower presentations sooner.

What's on the menu: crawfish and open-water baitfish are the most likely menu this week. Hatch reports for Pueblo are often thin in public feeds. Lead with craw and shad profiles, and match the bait you mark on the graph or see along the rock.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Walleye still earn a rod on deeper breaks and wind-blown points midday when smallmouth shut down — a simple jig-and-minnow or bottom-bouncer pass covers that secondary window without a second tackle box. **Largemouth** show around marina shade and softer banks for anglers who want a change of pace, but smallmouth remain the headline for this Cast. Keep the secondary list short and fish what you came for first.

● PRESSURE, CLARITY & BITE WINDOWS

Clarity on Pueblo swings with wind — a southeast blow can stain a bank overnight while the lee side stays clearer. Start with natural colors in clearer water and switch to a darker, slower profile when a pocket turns off-color. Decision tree for this weekend: **low light** = shallow rock, topwater, and tubes; **high sun** = deeper breaks, marina shade, and a slower bottom bait; **building wind** = fish the blown bank with a spinnerbait or crank before you leave. Friday recreation is softer than the weekend stack, but powerboats and bank crowds still peak near popular ramps after mid-morning Saturday and Sunday — launch early, fish the plan, and treat crowd pressure as recreational unless a named event shows on the calendar.

Heavy Traffic: no named trail event pulled for Fri–Sun on this water. Soft Friday recreational; Saturday–Sunday builds at popular ramps only.

● ACCESS NOTES & SAFETY

Regs change by water and season. Use the live Colorado Parks & Wildlife licensing and regulation pages for bag limits and gear rules before you fish. Mussel inspections and park restrictions can appear with little notice — check Lake Pueblo State Park pages before you trail in.

Wear a PFD when the boat is on plane, keep a spotter in busy lanes, and give swimming beaches and ski courses room. If lightning builds (unlikely under this dry forecast, but still watch the sky), get off exposed water early.

● **LOOKING AHEAD**

Next 1–3 weeks: watch the first true cool front of autumn and any weekend tournament calendars that would stack Heavy Traffic on Pueblo. As nights keep dropping, expect smallmouth to spend more of the morning on rock and bait edges and less time buried on the deepest break. Cooler overnight lows usually sharpen the first-light window on South Shore rock and make midday fish a little more willing to climb a slow drop-shot. Confirm mussel rules, park hours, and release boards as seasons flip, and confirm marina fuel and ramp hours if you are trailing in from out of town.

● **SOURCES**

NWS Pueblo point forecast for the reservoir · USACE / Colorado Parks & Wildlife Lake Pueblo notices (boards thin at this pull) · Pure-Gas.org E0 listings. Elevations, advisories, and station lists change — verify dam boards and pump grade before you go.