



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Noxon Reservoir: Cool Dawns, Local Wind & Smallmouth First Light

Clark Fork · Flatiron Ridge FAS · Friday Sep 28 – Sunday Sep 30, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT

Highs ~62° Mon → ~61° Tue → ~60° Wed (NWS MSO)

Primary: smallmouth bass · soft recreational pressure

E0 stations near this water · no prices

No named trail event pulled for Oct 2–4

Early October on Noxon Reservoir — cool dawn windows, quiet weather, and a Fri–Sun bite that rewards first light before weekend traffic builds.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS band pull (north / Flathead representative) — applied to Noxon Reservoir keeps a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun) at Noxon Reservoir. **Friday** ~67°F / ~45°F, mostly sunny, wind SSE 2 to 6 mph. **Saturday** ~66°F / ~38°F, mostly sunny, wind NNW 2 mph. **Sunday** ~70°F / ~45°F, sunny, wind S 2 mph. Storm chances stay **near zero**. Reader clocks below are **MT** (water-local).

For smallmouth bass: lean **first light through mid-morning** on windward points, creek arms, and ramp-adjacent structure before afternoon warmth or breeze rearranges the bite. Weekend recreational pressure usually runs heavier than midweek — **no named B.A.S.S. / FLW / ABA trail event pulled** for this water on Oct 2–4.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~67°F

Low ~45° · ~0% storms · SSE 2 to 6 mph

Mostly Sunny — fish the cool dawn window first

Sunrise 7:15 AM · Sunset 6:38 PM MT

Best bite: first light–mid-morning on points and creek mouths

SATURDAY OCT 3

~66°F

Low ~38° · ~0% storms · NNW 2 mph

Mostly Sunny; use any breeze for windward presentations

Sunrise 7:16 AM · Sunset 6:36 PM MT

Best bite: dawn shallow; mid-day slide deeper if the sun climbs hard

SUNDAY OCT 4

~70°F

Low ~45° · ~0% storms · S 2 mph

Sunny — another clean fall day; expect more weekend traffic

Sunrise 7:17 AM · Sunset 6:34 PM MT

Best bite: first light again before the Sunday crowd piles on

WINDOW NOTE

Fri–Sun only

Next Cast cycle covers Mon onward

Monday trend: watch the local NWS grid for cool-down or wind shift

No storm train flagged for this corridor at pull

Clarity unconfirmed; protected arms often fish clearer after calm nights

● DAM / LEVEL CHEAT SHEET

Noxon Rapids Dam (Avista) regulates Noxon Reservoir on the Clark Fork. At this Friday morning pull, a clean public hourly generation board was thin in text form — treat discharge as **confirm-before-you-go** on Avista / FWP notices, and use wind plus forage to locate fish on the reservoir itself. Schedules **can change without notice**. Soft level → bite notes only.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	OPS SIGNAL	BITE CONTEXT
Noxon Reservoir Avista · Clark Fork	Live hourly board thin on text pull	Confirm Avista notices before midday plan	Wind and shade lines locate smallmouth more than peaking blocks this week
Flatiron Ridge FAS (home pin) FWP concrete ramp W of Thompson Falls	Primary weekday access	Ramp open per FWP	Dawn riprap and point tips; give trailed traffic room
Clark Fork canyon stretches Timber / rock transitions	Clarity unconfirmed	Soft current notes only	Fish eddy rocks and shade — stay clear of dam restricted water

Honest thin board: Live elevation and hourly release were thin on the public text pull. Confirm the latest agency notices before you go. Dam restricted zones are off-limits.

MAIN POOL FRI–SUN

Cool dawns = shade lines first; midday slide to deeper rock

WIND PLAN

Use light chop on points; duck into pockets if canyon gusts build

● HOW TO FISH IT

BANK

Start on the Flatiron Ridge FAS riprap and the legal public rock you can reach along the Hwy 200 corridor, staying well outside any dam markers. First light favors a tube or small crank worked slowly along shade lines and current breaks, then a slide to deeper rock you can still cast from shore once the sun clears the canyon wall. Watch slick algae on the riprap, give trailered traffic room at the ramp, and keep a life jacket handy on any wet rock. If another angler already owns the best seam, take the next legal pocket instead of stacking up — Noxon's weekday bank bite rewards a short move more than a stubborn hour on one empty cast.

KAYAK

Noxon's timbered pockets and protected banks are the smart kayak home when canyon wind puts a chop on the main pool. Launch at Flatiron Ridge, hug shade and rock transitions in the first hour for smallmouth, then hop the next point once the sun climbs rather than committing to a long open-water crossing. Wear a PFD, stay visible to trailered boats in the ramp lane, and reef into a cove if whitecaps stack. A kayak shines here for quiet presentations along wood that bigger boats blow past — just do not turn a breezy afternoon into an open-canyon swim.

BOAT

Graph points and timber edges at first light out of Flatiron Ridge, then fan the next windward bank once any breeze stands up. Electronics matter for bait and hard bottom more than random casting along pretty shoreline. Idle clear of the FAS lane, stay well outside dam restricted water, and treat submerged timber as the local tax. If marks go quiet after mid-morning, change depth before you burn fuel on a long empty run — early-fall smallmouth here often slide a cast deeper rather than vanish.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait — bone/chrome on calm shade lines

#5 Rapala — silver/black along riprap at dawn

Skip topwater once sun is high

MID

Spinnerbait — white/chartreuse along timber

Small crank — craw or shad on rock transitions

Swim jig — green pumpkin on shade edges

BOTTOM

Tube / Ned — green pumpkin or watermelon on rock

Drop-shot — clearer pockets

Football jig — deeper rock midday

● SMALLMOUTH LIFE STAGE

Early October on Noxon is a **shade-and-rock smallmouth** pattern. Fish push crawfish and small bait along riprap and timber edges at first light, then slide deeper as the sun climbs. Cool mornings widen the window; calm midday heat shortens it. Secondary northern pike and yellow perch share the same structure with faster or slower presentations.

● NATURAL FORAGE

Most-likely menu this week: **crayfish** on rock, **yellow perch** around timber, and **small baitfish** in warmer pockets. Hatch reports are thin for this canyon reservoir. Match what you mark: if bait is pinned on a shaded point at 12 ft, start with a tube or drop-shot before you grind empty bank. If you are not marking bait after two honest moves, change water — a new point or creek mouth — before you empty the box changing colors.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- **Northern pike** — weed and timber edges with spinnerbaits — keep wire handy
- **Yellow perch** — timber with small jigs once smallmouth slide deep
- **Largemouth bass** — softer backs and docks with soft plastics at dawn

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

Soft recreational pressure for Fri–Sun. **No named national or regional trail event** was pulled for Noxon Reservoir on Oct 2–4 at this gather. Expect lighter weekday traffic at Flatiron Ridge FAS than a sunny weekend, with a bump if midweek sun draws locals. Ramp etiquette still matters — idle near beaches and give bank anglers room. Local after-work traffic can bump Saturday or Sunday if the sun wins the afternoon, so an early trailer still buys the quietest water.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL · PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Closest Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free listings near Noxon Reservoir (stations only — verify grade at the pump; listings can change):

- **Harvest Foods** — Harvest Foods, 2006 Main St, Thompson Falls, MT (~5.2 mi) · Ethanol-free CENEX 91; GPS Changed by SR using Google Satell
- **Beamis Hi Co** — Beamis Hi Co, 205 5th St, Wallace, ID (~26.4 mi) · Ethanol-free UNBRANDED 91; GPS Changed by SR using Google Sa
- **St Regis Exxon** — St Regis Exxon, 100 Mullan Gulch Rd, St Regis, MT (~27.0 mi) · Ethanol-free EXXON 91; GPS entered by Ben Sclair
- **Town Pump** — Town Pump, 108 E Railroad Ave, Plains, MT (~27.1 mi) · Ethanol-free CONOCO 91; GPS entered by Mark

No pump prices in this **Cast**. Confirm ethanol-free grade at the pump if that matters for your motor.

If wind or showers rearrange the day, shorten the run and fish the first clean point or creek mouth you can reach safely from Flatiron Ridge FAS — a tight dawn window still beats a long midday grind on stained water.

● DAY-BY-DAY FISHING NOTES

Friday favors the cleanest dawn window of the three if overnight showers stay light — be on the first point or creek mouth you trust within thirty minutes of sunrise, then decide whether to slide deeper or stay shallow based on bait marks, not the clock alone. If the afternoon breeze stands up, treat windward breaks as a feature: shorten casts, keep the bait in the strike zone, and move along the break instead of camping on one empty cast. Saturday and Sunday often share a pattern in early fall — cooler air helps the morning, then sun or showers compress the shallow bite after late morning. When radar shows cells, fish the edges and the thirty quiet minutes after a cell passes rather than forcing a long open-water run under a dark shelf. Keep a bank or kayak backup close to the ramp so a washed-out main-lake plan still puts a line in the water.

● ACCESS AND SAFETY

Trailer etiquette matters even on quiet weekdays: stage off the ramp lane, launch efficiently, and idle out of the no-wake pocket before you plane off. Bank anglers get first courtesy on shared riprap. Kayaks should stay visible and avoid the main takeoff lane when boats are loading. Lightning ends the argument — get off the water and wait. Submerged timber, unmarked rock, and changing ramp exposure with pool are the usual taxes on these waters; idle until you know the bottom. Dam restricted zones, boom lines, and posted closures stay off-limits no matter how good the seam looks from outside the markers.

Pack layers for cool dawns and a rain shell for midweek shower chances. Bring a headlamp for pre-dawn rigging, a spare trailer fuse, and enough fuel to cover a weather-shortened day without gambling on a long run home. If afternoon whitecaps stack on the main pool, reef early and finish the day in a protected arm or from the bank rather than proving a point in open water.

● LOOKING AHEAD

Cool mornings look locked in through early October on the local NWS grid, which usually helps shallow dawn windows and stretches the first-light bite a little later into the morning as nights keep falling. Watch how midweek shower trains rearrange water color — a stain line after a cell can concentrate bait on the first clean point outside a creek mouth for a short window. Keep confirming agency pool and ramp notices as September closes; a quiet change in pool can move the best break a cast or two deeper without any drama on social media. Next **Cast** cycle covers the Thursday–Sunday stretch, when another cool front or a quieter sky can rewrite which bank you start on.

If you only get one morning this window, take Friday's first light unless radar is ugly — then take the first clean dawn after the cells pass. A short, honest trip that puts bait and fish on the graph beats a long midday grind on empty banks. Carry two confidence presentations (one slow bottom, one mid-column) and let the marks choose which one earns the next hour.

● SOURCES

- NWS MSO gridpoint forecast for Noxon Reservoir / Flatiron Ridge FAS — pulled Fri Oct 2 morning CT
- Agency / park recreation notices for pool and ramp context (thin live elev/cfs on text pull)
- Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station listings near this water
- Public access: Flatiron Ridge FAS

Freshwater Cast · Montana · Noxon Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT