



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Tiber / Lake Elwell: Cool Dawns, Local Wind & Walleye First Light

Marias River · Tiber Marina · Friday Sep 28 – Sunday Sep 30, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT

Highs ~68° Mon → ~69° Tue → ~62° Wed (NWS TFX)

Primary: walleye · soft recreational pressure

E0 stations near this water · no prices

No named trail event pulled for Oct 2–4

Early October on Tiber / Lake Elwell — 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 Tiber / Lake Elwell keeps a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun) at Tiber / Lake Elwell. **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 walleye: 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

Tiber Dam (USBR) forms Lake Elwell on the Marias River. At this Friday morning pull, a clean public live elevation/release table was thin in text form — treat pool and outflow as **confirm-before-you-go** on USBR / FWP recreation notices, and fish wind plus forage on the main pool. Schedules **can change without notice**. Soft level → bite notes only.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	OPS SIGNAL	BITE CONTEXT
Lake Elwell / Tiber USBR Tiber Dam	Live elev/cfs thin on text pull	Confirm USBR / FWP before midday plan	Big-water wind locates walleye on points and breaks
Tiber Marina (home pin) Public marina ramp	Primary weekday access	Confirm ramp on-site	Dawn marina riprap and nearby points
Marias River arms Protected when main pool chops	Clarity unconfirmed	Soft level notes only	Duck into arms if whitecaps stack

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

Dawn points; use afternoon chop on windward breaks

WIND SAFETY

Big water — reef early if whitecaps stack

● HOW TO FISH IT

BANK

Tiber Marina riprap and the legal public shoreline near the recreation hub are the honest weekday bank options on Elwell. Dawn jig along rock transitions while the air is still cool, then accept that midday heat often pushes fish deeper than most shore casts reach. Watch slick rock, give trailered traffic room at the marina lane, and keep a life jacket on any wet footing. If prairie-style wind stacks whitecaps on the open pool, fish the lee bank you can reach safely rather than fighting spray for empty casts.

KAYAK

Stay inside protected Marias arms when the main pool breeze climbs into the teens. Launch at Tiber Marina, work transitions at first light for walleye, and skip long open-water crossings under dark shelves or building whitecaps. Wear a PFD — Elwell is big water that punishes open-water mistakes fast. A kayak is perfect for hopping quiet arm banks between cells, then returning to the marina before afternoon chop turns the main lake into a slog.

BOAT

First light on points and breaks near the marina, then use afternoon wind as a tool on windward structure once the surface puts a roll on. Graph bait before you camp; idle near the marina corridor and watch unmarked rock and submerged timber. Reef early if whitecaps stack — a short honest morning beats a long beaten-up run home. Change depth when marks slide, and keep a protected-arm backup on the plan.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait / small spook — bone or chrome on calm dawn pockets

#5–#7 Rapala — silver/black or firetiger along points before sun clears

Skip topwater once chop or stain builds

MID

Jigging Rap / blade — glow, perch, or firetiger on 10–18 ft breaks

Shad crank — chartreuse/white when water stains

Spinnerbait — white/chartreuse on windward weed edges

BOTTOM

1/4–3/8 oz jig + soft plastic — paddle tail in smoke, chartreuse, or black/blue

Crawler harness / bottom bouncer — when breeze puts a roll on

Drop-shot — clearer pockets at first light

● WALLEYE LIFE STAGE

Early October on Elwell is classic **dawn walleye on points**, then a slide to mid-depth breaks. Cool mornings help; afternoon wind is a tool, not a reason to stay home if you fish smart. Secondary pike and perch share the menu.

● NATURAL FORAGE

Most-likely menu: **cisco/whitefish leftovers** in deeper breaks, **perch** around timber, and **shiners** in arms. Hatch reports are thin. Match bait you mark. 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 arm edges with spinnerbaits
- **Yellow perch** — timber with small jigs
- **Smallmouth bass** — rock with tubes when chop builds

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

Soft recreational pressure for Fri–Sun. **No named national or regional trail event** was pulled for Tiber / Lake Elwell on Oct 2–4 at this gather. Expect lighter weekday traffic at Tiber Marina 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 Tiber / Lake Elwell (stations only — verify grade at the pump; listings can change):

- **Fraser's** — Fraser's, 119 Washington Ave, Chester, MT (~14.7 mi) · Ethanol-free CONOCO 91; GPS Changed by SR using Google Satel

- **Noons** — Noons, 530 1/2 W Roosevelt Hwy, Shelby, MT (~35.8 mi) · Ethanol-free SINCLAIR 91; GPS Located from address
- **Joyce Fuel And Feed** — Joyce Fuel And Feed, 2118 St Charles St, Fort Benton, MT (~40.7 mi) · Ethanol-free UNBRANDED 91; GPS Located from address.
- **Joyce Fuel And Feed** — Joyce Fuel And Feed, 2118 St Charles Street, Fort Benton, MT (~40.7 mi) · Ethanol-free CONOCO 91; GPS Located from address.

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 Tiber Marina — 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.

Presentation speed should follow water temperature and wind more than habit. Cooler dawn water usually wants a slower jig or harness; once chop dirties the surface or bait marks rise, speed up just enough to stay in contact. If you are marking bait with no followers, change depth before you change lure color. If you are marking nothing, move — early-fall fish on these reservoirs reward a mobile first hour more than a stubborn second hour on the same empty bank.

● 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 TFX gridpoint forecast for Tiber / Lake Elwell / Tiber Marina — 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: Tiber Marina

Freshwater Cast · Montana · Tiber / Lake Elwell · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat
· times MT