



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Tongue River Reservoir: Cool Dawns, Local Wind & Walleye First Light

Tongue River · Campers Point · Friday Sep 28 – Sunday Sep 30, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT

Highs ~71° Mon → ~78° Tue → ~72° Wed (NWS BYZ)

Primary: walleye · soft recreational pressure

E0 stations near this water · no prices

No named trail event pulled for Oct 2–4

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

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS band pull (south / Tongue River representative) — applied to Tongue River Reservoir keeps a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun) at Tongue River Reservoir. **Friday ~81°F / ~47°F**, sunny, wind NNE 1 to 6 mph. **Saturday ~72°F / ~41°F**, mostly sunny, wind NNW 8 to 15 mph. **Sunday ~78°F / ~45°F**, sunny, wind E 3 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

~81°F

Low ~47° · ~0% storms · NNE 1 to 6 mph

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

~72°F

Low ~41° · ~0% storms · NNW 8 to 15 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

~78°F

Low ~45° · ~0% storms · E 3 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**

Tongue River Reservoir is a Montana FWP State Park water with a dam on the Tongue 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 FWP / State Park notices, and fish wind plus forage on the reservoir itself. Schedules **can change without notice**. Soft level → bite notes only.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	OPS SIGNAL	BITE CONTEXT
Tongue River Reservoir FWP State Park	Live elev/cfs thin on text pull	Confirm FWP / park notices before midday plan	Cool mornings tighten walleye to points and creek mouths
Campers Point (home pin) Marina / State Park ramp hub	Primary access	Confirm ramp depth on-site	Dawn points and marina riprap; idle in no-wake
Creek arms / main pool points Wind = Saturday– Sunday story	Clarity unconfirmed	Soft level notes only	Windward breaks once the breeze puts a roll on

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

First light on points; mid-day windward breaks when breeze builds

PARK ETIQUETTE

Idle no-wake; share Campers Point with campers and bank anglers

● HOW TO FISH IT

BANK

Work the Campers Point shoreline, State Park day-use banks, and legal marina riprap before the sun climbs. Dawn walk-and-cast with a jig and soft plastic along points and gravel transitions is the high-percentage Friday plan; once breeze builds, fish the windward bank you can still reach on foot instead of forcing a long empty stretch. Watch slick rock near the waterline, give boat traffic room at the marina corridor, and keep casts clear of swimmers and campers. A short move to the next legal point beats camping on one washed-out bank after a shower cell.

KAYAK

Protected arms off Campers Point are the kayak play when the main pool chops up or showers push through. Launch at the State Park ramp, work eight-to-fourteen-foot transitions at first light for walleye, then slide to a windward point only if whitecaps stay manageable. Wear a PFD, stay out of the main takeoff lane while trailers load, and duck into an arm between cells rather than crossing open water under a dark shelf. Cooldowns after a shower often restrain the shallows — slow the jig and stay on the first clean color change.

BOAT

Run points and creek mouths at first light from Campers Point, then use midweek breeze to hide presentations on windward breaks in the ten-to-eighteen-foot zone. Mark bait and hard bottom before you settle; idle in no-wake near the marina and watch unmarked rock. If radar lights up, shorten the run and finish in a protected arm instead of proving a point on the main pool. A mobile first hour that finds bait beats a long midday grind on empty structure.

● 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 here is a **cooling-water walleye transition**. Expect the strongest shallow feed in the first two hours of light, then a slide to mid-depth points once the sun climbs. Secondary smallmouth and northern pike show on the same structure with faster retrieves.

● NATURAL FORAGE

Most-likely menu: **young perch**, **shiners**, and **crayfish** on rock transitions. Hatch reports are thin. Match what you mark on electronics before you grind empty banks. 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

- **Smallmouth bass** — rock points with tubes and small cranks
- **Northern pike** — weed edges with spinnerbaits
- **Yellow perch** — timber and brush with small jigs

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

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

- **Buckhorn N Grocery** — Buckhorn N Grocery, 723 Dayton Street, Ranchester, WY (~22.5 mi) · Ethanol-free CONOCO 91; GPS entered by Matt
- **Farmers Co-Op Of Sheridan** — Farmers Co-Op Of Sheridan, 1450 Coffeen Ave., Sheridan, WY (~23.1 mi) · Ethanol-free CENEX 91; GPS entered by John
- **Big Horn Y** — Big Horn Y, 7088 Coffeen Ave, Sheridan, WY (~27.4 mi) · Ethanol-free CENEX 91; GPS located from address
- **Corner Grocery** — Corner Grocery, 401 Main St, Dayton, WY (~27.6 mi) · Ethanol-free SINCLAIR 85 88 91; GPS entered by Glenn B

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 Campers Point — 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 BYZ gridpoint forecast for Tongue River Reservoir / Campers Point — 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: Campers Point

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