



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

South Fork Reservoir: Cool Elko Mornings, ~5,229 ft Pool & Trout Dawn

South Fork SRA · Elko County · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times PT

Highs ~72° Mon → ~77° Tue → ~81° Wed (NWS LKN)

USGS elev ~5,228.76 ft (Sep 27 ~10 PM PT)

Primary: trout · soft recreational pressure

Early October on South Fork 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 / South Fork representative) — applied to South Fork Reservoir keeps a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun) at South Fork Reservoir.

Friday ~88°F / ~46°F, mostly sunny, wind SSW 0 to 5 mph. **Saturday ~86°F / ~45°F**, partly sunny, wind 0 mph. **Sunday ~90°F / ~49°F**, sunny, wind SSE 0 to 10 mph. Storm chances stay **near zero** across the window. Reader clocks below are **PT** (water-local).

For trout: 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

~88°F

Low ~46° · ~0% storms · SSW 0 to 5 mph

Mostly Sunny — fish the cool dawn window first

Sunrise **6:55 AM** · Sunset **6:35 PM PT**

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

SATURDAY OCT 3

~86°F

Low ~45° · ~0% storms · 0 mph

Partly Sunny; use any breeze for windward presentations

Sunrise **6:56 AM** · Sunset **6:33 PM PT**

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

SUNDAY OCT 4

~90°F

Low ~49° · ~0% storms · SSE 0 to 10 mph

Sunny — another clean fall day; expect more weekend traffic

Sunrise **6:57 AM** · Sunset **6:32 PM** PT

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

South Fork Reservoir elevation from **USGS 10319910 S Fk Reservoir at Spring Creek, NV**: provisional water-surface elevation **~5,228.76 ft** (NGVD29) at **Sep 27, 2026 ~10:00 PM PT**. Hourly release blocks were not on this pull — treat elev trend and South Fork SRA ramp notices as the live story. Soft elev → bite notes only. Lead trout honestly; bass are secondary. Schedules **can change without notice**.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	OPS SIGNAL	BITE CONTEXT
South Fork Reservoir USGS 10319910	Elev ~5,228.76 ft Sep 27 ~10:00 PM PT · NGVD29	Provisional elev live <i>Confirm USGS / SRA before launch</i>	Fish points, creek arms, and deeper breaks; watch ramp exposure
South Fork SRA ramp Nevada State Parks	Public launch hub for this pin	Confirm park hours / fees live	Dawn first light is the trout window
Cool Elko air NWS LKN	Lows ~36–39°F · highs ~72–81°F	Cool nights keep mornings honest	Fish dawn hard; midday go deeper

Honest thin board: Elev is solid; hourly release blocks were not on this pull. Confirm USGS and SRA notices before you go. Dam restricted zones are off-limits.

MAIN LAKE FRI–SUN

Cool Friday–Sunday mornings: creek-arm edges and points at first light

Sunny afternoons: slide to deeper breaks
~5,229 ft elev — confirm ramp before you trailer

SAFETY

High-desert nights are cold — dress in layers for dawn

Afternoon wind can stand up on open water
Never fish inside dam restricted water

● HOW TO FISH IT

BANK

South Fork SRA public shoreline and accessible creek-arm banks are the weekday bank plays. Dawn walk-and-cast with a small spoon or Rooster Tail along color changes is the Friday plan under cool Elko air. Midday sun pushes trout deeper — reach shaded drops you can still fish from shore. Give trailer traffic room at the SRA ramp, watch slick banks after any overnight dew, and take the next legal pocket if the first stretch is already occupied.

KAYAK

South Fork's protected arms suit a kayak on these cool, mostly sunny mornings. Launch from the SRA public ramp, work 6–15 ft edges at first light for trout, then slide along the next point once fish move. Wear a PFD and watch afternoon wind on the main pool. A kayak shines for quiet creek-arm edges when boat traffic bunches at the ramp — keep runs short and reverse before whitecaps build.

BOAT

Idle out at first light, graph creek-arm transitions and points for bait, and stay mobile. Cool nights should keep trout honest shallow at dawn before they slide deeper under sunny highs. Soft recreational pressure midweek; watch unmarked rock and submerged timber. Stage off the trailer lane, idle out clean, and treat the SRA as home base rather than a long exploratory loop that burns the cool window.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Small spoons / Kastmasters at dawn

Dry fly or hopper on calm banks when rises show

Skip noisy topwater under hard midday sun

MID

Rooster Tail / Panther Martin along points

Soft hackle / nymph under indicator

Stickbait slow-rolled mid-column

BOTTOM

Weighted nymphs / eggs near bottom

Jig + mealworm / PowerBait where legal

Spoons deep on windward points after 10 AM

● TROUT LIFE STAGE

Early October on South Fork is early-fall trout season — cool nights and sunny days favor first-light feeding on creek arms and points, then a midday slide deeper. Lead trout honestly; bass are secondary when they show on warmer edges. Spawn is long over; fish are feeding up ahead of colder October nights.

● NATURAL FORAGE

Most-likely menu: midges/mayflies where present, baitfish along points, and callibaetis-type activity on calm mornings. No specific hatch claimed without a dated report — match size to what you see.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Largemouth — secondary on warmer brush edges with small swimbaits. **Yellow perch / panfish** — same mid-depth edges for mixed bags. Confirm Nevada State Parks / NDOW regs.

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4: no named national trail event pulled for South Fork this midweek window. Soft recreational at the SRA. Boat counts are not posted — treat pressure as soft weekday recreational unless a named event is on the calendar.

Pressure note: fish early, give trailer traffic room at the public ramp, and stay civil around bank anglers. Soft midweek recreational is the default when no named event is on the board.

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

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

Maverik #530 — 117 Boyd-Kennedy Rd, Spring Creek, NV (~8.9 mi) · ethanol-free MAVERIK 87

Shell Gasoline — 266 Spring Creek Parkway, Spring Creek, NV (~10.0 mi) · ethanol-free SHELL 88

Atwal's Gas & Food — 1575 Lamoille Hwy, Elko, NV (~10.5 mi) · ethanol-free SINCLAIR 85 88

Maverik #509 — 2520 Mtn City Hwy, Elko, NV (~10.7 mi) · ethanol-free MAVERIK 87

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

● LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday trends sunny near 83°F under light air — a soft extension of the cool-morning pattern. Next 1–3 weeks: nights keep easing colder; trout windows stay dawn-first. Keep pulling USGS 10319910 before every trailer run.

Regs: Nevada State Parks / South Fork SRA rules + NDOW freshwater regs (live).

● ON THE WATER THIS WINDOW

Idle a known edge at a slow pace before the first cast and mark bait height on the graph. If bait is up in the top few feet at dawn, start with a faster search bait; if the cloud is down on the break, go mid-column or bottom first. Re-scan after lunch — the same edge often looks empty on the graph once the sun is overhead even when fish are still there in the shade of cover or rock.

Any storm chance midweek is the pattern breaker: if cells fire, fish the edges carefully and get off the water for lightning. A stained inlet the morning after rain can outproduce a clear main-lake flat for a day or two. Keep the live Nevada regs page bookmarked — slot and length rules do not care how long your drive was.

● ACCESS PULSE

Public ramps are the honest gate on this water — confirm hours, fees, and ramp condition before you trailer, especially after any overnight weather. Soft mud, unmarked rock, and drawdown shelves are the usual desert-reservoir tax. Give trailer traffic room at the apron, idle in no-wake zones, and leave private docks alone.

Carry a simple plan B: if the primary ramp is crowded or closed, have a second legal public access in mind and stick to a second legal public access rather than crossing posted land. Midweek recreational pressure is usually light enough that the first legal ramp you planned is still

the right call.

● READER CHECKLIST

Before you leave the driveway: confirm the public ramp is open, pull the latest NWS day card for your launch hour, and confirm the level board named in the Dam / level cheat sheet. Soft boards and storm odds change overnight — the Cast is a Sunday-night snapshot, not a substitute for the live page.

On the water, start with one honest search pass at first light, then slow down only when bait or birds prove the spot. Midday under sunny highs is when most anglers grind empty shallows — slide deeper, find shade, or switch to a finesse presentation rather than repeating the same empty bank cast. End the day with a quick gear rinse and a note about what actually produced, so Friday's Cast window starts smarter.

Shared safety once more: life jacket on, lightning means leave, and private docks stay private. Desert reservoirs reward the prepared angler and punish the rushed one — especially when Friday's storm odds and Sunday's heat bookend the same short midweek window.

● SOURCES

NWS Elko (LKN) point forecast (Sunday night PT pull) · USGS 10319910 elev · Nevada State Parks South Fork SRA · NDOW (live) · Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station listings · Trail calendars skimmed for named events (none confirmed for this window). Schedules change — confirm before launch.