



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
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FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Wildhorse Reservoir: Cool Mornings, ~23k AF Pool & Trout First Light

Wild Horse SRA · NE Nevada · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times PT

Highs ~61° Mon → ~67° Tue → ~70° Wed (NWS LKN)

USGS storage ~23,080 AF · elev ~6,183 ft

Primary: trout · soft recreational pressure

Early October on Wildhorse 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 Wildhorse Reservoir keeps a **quiet early-October pattern** for this Friday **Cast** window (Fri–Sun) at Wildhorse 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

Wild Horse Reservoir from **USGS 13174000 Wild Horse Res near Gold Creek, NV**: provisional storage **~23,080 acre-feet** and water-surface elevation **~6,183.14 ft** at **Sep 27, 2026 ~9:15 PM PT**. Hourly release blocks were not on this pull — treat storage/elev and Nevada State Parks ramp notices as the live story. Soft storage → bite notes only. Lead trout honestly on this water — warmwater bass/wiper are secondary. Schedules **can change without notice**.

NODE	PULL SNAPSHOT	OPS SIGNAL	BITE CONTEXT
Wild Horse Reservoir USGS 13174000	Storage ~23,080 AF Elev ~6,183.14 ft Sep 27 ~9:15 PM PT	Provisional storage+elev live <i>Confirm USGS / SRA before launch</i>	Mid-range fall pool — fish points, inlets, and deeper breaks; watch ramp exposure
Wild Horse SRA ramp Nevada State Parks	Public launch hub for this pin	Confirm park hours / fees live	Dawn first light is the trout window before midday sun
High-desert air NWS LKN	Lows ~37–41°F · highs ~61–70°F	Cool nights keep mornings honest	Fish dawn hard; midday swimbaits/spoons deeper

Honest thin board: Storage and elev are 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: shallow inlet edges and points at first light
- Sunny afternoons: slide to deeper breaks and windward points
- ~23k AF pool — confirm ramp before you trailer

SAFETY

- High-desert nights are cold — dress in layers for dawn
- Afternoon wind can stand up fast on this open reservoir
- Never fish inside dam restricted water

● HOW TO FISH IT

BANK

Wild Horse SRA public shoreline and accessible point tips are the weekday bank plays. Dawn walk-and-cast with a small spoon or Rooster Tail along inlet color changes is the Friday plan under cool high-desert air. Midday sun pushes trout deeper — reach shaded drops and windward banks you can still fish from shore. Give trailer traffic room at the SRA ramp, watch slick mud at the waterline, and keep a second confidence spoon color ready if the inlet stain lasts past mid-morning.

KAYAK

Wildhorse'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; open high-desert water punishes mistakes when afternoon wind stands up. Keep the paddle inside a distance you can reverse, stay visible in the ramp lane, and duck into an arm if whitecaps stack on the main pool.

BOAT

Idle out at first light, graph inlet transitions and points for bait, and stay mobile. Cool nights should keep trout honest shallow at dawn before they slide deeper under sunny highs in the 60s–70s. Soft recreational pressure midweek; watch unmarked rock and submerged timber. Keep a lee cove on the plan when northeast breeze builds, and finish near the SRA rather than stretching a risky late run across open water.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Small spoons / Kastmasters at dawn

Dry fly or hopper on calm banks when rises show

Popper rare — only on opportunistic warmwater rises

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 Wildhorse is early-fall trout season on a high-desert reservoir — cool nights and sunny days favor first-light feeding on points and inlet edges, then a midday slide deeper. This is not a bass-first water this week; lead trout and treat warmwater bass/wiper as secondary when they show. 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 rising or mark on the graph.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

Largemouth / wiper — secondary on warmer edges with small swimbaits and spinnerbaits.

Yellow perch — same mid-depth edges for mixed bags. Confirm Nevada State Parks / NDOW regs before you keep fish.

● HEAVY TRAFFIC

Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4: no named national trail event pulled for Wildhorse this midweek window. Soft recreational at the SRA — weekday NE Nevada traffic is usually light. 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 Wildhorse Reservoir (stations only — verify grade at the pump; listings can change):

Maverik #509 — 2520 Mtn City Hwy, Elko, NV (~57.6 mi) · ethanol-free MAVERIK 87

Atwal's Gas & Food — 1575 Lamoille Hwy, Elko, NV (~58.0 mi) · ethanol-free SINCLAIR 85 88

Maverik #716 — 447 Ventosa St, Wells, NV (~58.0 mi) · ethanol-free MAVERIK 85 87 88

Maverik #530 — 117 Boyd-Kennedy Rd, Spring Creek, NV (~62.2 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 74°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 13174000 before every trailer run.

Regs: Nevada State Parks / Wild Horse 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 13174000 storage+elev · Nevada State Parks Wild Horse 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.