



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · NEW MEXICO

## Clayton Cast

Clayton Lake · Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times MT

Trophy Bass Water

Times MT

Clayton plains trophy week — fish first light before the wind owns the lake.

### • MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

**National Weather Service** — forecast gathered Sunday evening, Sep 20, 2026. All clock times below are **MT**.

Late-September pattern from the National Weather Service for the Clayton / northeast plains corridor. Treat day cards as the planning spine and re-check the morning of your trip.

#### WINDOW

**Mon–Thu**

through Thursday evening MT

#### PRIMARY SPECIES

Largemouth bass (primary  
— trophy)

#### CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled  
for Monday through  
Thursday. Soft weekday  
recreational pressure.

#### MONDAY

Forecast thin — verify dam boards before you  
go

#### TUESDAY

Forecast thin — verify dam boards before you  
go

#### WEDNESDAY

Forecast thin — verify dam boards before you  
go

#### THURSDAY

Forecast thin — verify dam boards before you  
go

## ● DAM & POOL CHEAT SHEET

**NMDGF Trophy Bass Water / plains** — pool/release or level thin at this gather. What matters Monday through Thursday is **level, any release pulse, and wind**.

### BOARDS

Re-check live agency boards before launch. Do not invent numbers.

### WIND

Fetch turns after mid-morning — plan lee shores.

### ACCESS

Posted ramps and parks — fees/hours verify live.

Schedules change — verify dam boards before you go.

## ● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

### BANK

<strong>Shared:</strong>  
Hydrate Mon–Tue; desert heat and wind build fast. Dam restricted zones off-limits.  
<strong>Clayton:</strong>  
State Park banks and dam shoreline where legal; fish early/late. Watch plains wind and footing. Access: NM State Parks / NMDGF where posted.

### KAYAK

<strong>Clayton:</strong>  
Entire lake is kayak-scale on calm mornings — lee shores when wind rises. PFD on.

### BOAT

<strong>Plan:</strong> first light cover and dam-area structure; midday shade edges; evening revisit. Plains trophy pace — wind is the schedule.

## ● LURE BOX

### TOP

Walking topwater (chrome / bone / white) at dawn  
Buzzbait over calm pockets  
Popper on bait dimples

### MID

Spinnerbait (white / chartreuse shad)  
Medium diving crank (shad / craw)  
Lipless along points

### BOTTOM

Texas-rig soft plastic (green pumpkin)  
Football or finesse jig (brown craw)  
Ned / shaky on rock

**Stain / clear match:** Clarity unconfirmed this window. Lean shad chrome / white on clearer water; darker craw / junebug if storms dirty backs.

## ● BASS LIFE STAGE

<strong>Early-fall transition</strong> on plains trophy bass water. Largemouth headline.

**What's on the menu:** Most likely <strong>bluegill / sunfish</strong> and baitfish. Match profile; keep a jig ready.

## ● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

### PANFISH

Bluegill around the same cover.

### CATFISH

Secondary note only.

### CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu. Soft weekday recreational pressure.

Regs live-link only: NMDGF freshwater creel & size limits (confirm live).

**Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks):** Cooling nights next 1–3 weeks; re-check agency boards and trail calendars. Next Cast: Friday window Fri–Sun.

### ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

**Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 evening) — may change; verify at the pump.**

**Pure-Gas.org search** — Clayton / northeast plains · ethanol-free listings · price not listed — verify at pump

Listed E0 stations from Pure-Gas.org (crowdsourced). Call ahead — availability changes. If you cannot confirm E0 at the pump, do not assume regular unleaded is ethanol-free. Station-specific pump prices were not confirmed at this gather. Do not invent a dollar amount.

**Sources:** National Weather Service forecast for the Clayton / northeast plains area pulled Sunday evening Sep 20, 2026; Pure-Gas.org for ethanol-free station identity; NMDGF Trophy Bass Water / plains; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish freshwater guidance. Schedules and conditions change — verify dam boards before you go. <strong>Schedules change — verify boards before you go.</strong>

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