



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · NEW MEXICO

Cochiti Cast

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

[Access re-check](#)

[Times MT](#)

Cochiti's middle Rio Grande week rewards early points and honest respect for restricted water.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

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

Late-September pattern from the National Weather Service for the Cochiti / Peña Blanca 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);
smallmouth secondary

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

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

MONDAY

High near **81°F** · Mostly Sunny · ~1% storm/
precip chance

Wind SE 0 to 10 mph

Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Southeast
wind 0 to 10 mph.

Local clock times **MT**

TUESDAY

High near **77°F** · Chance Showers And
Thunderstorms · ~62% storm/precip chance

Wind SE 10 to 15 mph

Isolated rain showers before noon, then a
chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly
cloudy, with a high near 77. Southeast wind 10
to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Local clock times **MT**

WEDNESDAY

High near **67°F** · Rain Showers · ~89% storm/precip chance

Wind E 5 mph

Rain showers before noon, then showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a high near 67. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Local clock times **MT**

THURSDAY

High near **72°F** · Showers And Thunderstorms Likely · ~57% storm/precip chance

Wind E 0 to 5 mph

A chance of rain showers before noon, then showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Local clock times **MT**

● DAM & POOL CHEAT SHEET

USACE SPA / Cochiti (middle Rio Grande) — 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

Shared: Hydrate Mon–Tue; desert heat and wind build fast. Dam restricted zones off-limits. Cochiti: Posted banks and rocky points early/late; respect pueblo and restricted zones. Access: NM State Parks / NMDGF where posted.

KAYAK

Cochiti: Protected pockets and lee shores; avoid dam face and main-channel rollers. PFD on.

BOAT

Plan: first light points and riprap; midday channel swings; evening shade. Middle Rio Grande storage — verify USACE boards.

● 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

Early-fall transition on middle Rio Grande storage. Largemouth primary; smallmouth on rock secondary.

What's on the menu: Most likely shad and sunfish; crawl on riprap.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

WHITE BASS

Soft schooling note when bait shows.

CATFISH

Deeper holes — secondary.

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 — Cochiti / Peña Blanca corridor · 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 Cochiti / Peña Blanca corridor area pulled Sunday evening Sep 20, 2026; Pure-Gas.org for ethanol-free station identity; USACE SPA / Cochiti (middle Rio Grande); New Mexico Department of Game and Fish freshwater guidance. Schedules and conditions change — verify dam boards before you go. Schedules change — verify boards before you go.

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