



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST · NEW MEXICO

Elephant Butte Cast

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

Times MT

Primary: largemouth

Heavy Traffic: none pulled

Beat late-September heat on Elephant Butte with first light on main-lake points, then slide deeper as the sun climbs — and treat USBR boards and wind as the real schedule.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

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

Late-September desert pattern from the National Weather Service for the Elephant Butte corridor. Expect warm Monday sunshine, then a midweek storm chance that can dirty inflows and knock afternoon highs. Treat the 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);
white bass / hybrids
secondary

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled for Monday through Thursday. Soft weekday recreational pressure; residual weekend traffic possible at State Park ramps.

MONDAY

High near **87°F** · Sunny · ~3% storm/precip chance

Wind ENE 1 to 6 mph

Sunny, with a high near 87. East northeast wind 1 to 6 mph.

Local clock times **MT**

TUESDAY

High near **80°F** · Chance Rain Showers then Showers And Thunderstorms · ~85% storm/precip chance

Wind SE 3 to 12 mph

A chance of rain showers before noon, then showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. Southeast wind 3 to 12 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Local clock times **MT**

WEDNESDAY

High near **73°F** · Showers And Thunderstorms · ~93% storm/precip chance

Wind NNE 3 to 7 mph

Showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. North northeast wind 3 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Local clock times **MT**

THURSDAY

High near **73°F** · Rain Showers Likely · ~68% storm/precip chance

Wind E 1 to 5 mph

Rain showers likely before noon, then showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. East wind 1 to 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Local clock times **MT**

● DAM & POOL CHEAT SHEET

USBR Rio Grande Project / Elephant Butte — pool and release were thin at this gather. What matters Monday through Thursday is **pool elevation, any release pulse, and afternoon wind**.

POOL & RELEASE

Live USBR RISE boards were thin — verify dam boards before you go. Do not invent acre-feet or CFS.

WIND

Main-lake fetch turns ugly fast after mid-morning. Plan lee points.

ACCESS

State Park ramps and marinas — fees and hours verify live.

Schedules change — verify dam boards before you go.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared:
Hydrate Mon–Tue; afternoon desert heat builds fast. Dam restricted zones off-limits.
Elephant Butte:
State Park marina banks, rocky points, and posted shoreline early and late — fees verify live. Access: NM State Parks / NMDGF freshwater access.

KAYAK

Elephant Butte:
Protected coves and secondary points before wind stacks on the main lake. Avoid afternoon rollers on open basins. Launch from known ramps; wear a PFD; collapse into lee if whitecaps fill the fetch.

BOAT

Plan: first light–9 AM main-lake points and channel swings; late morning–afternoon ride deeper structure and any release-related current near the dam face when USBR boards show movement; evening revisit shallow shade. Launch early — desert heat and recreational traffic rise together.

● 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)
Lipless crank along points

BOTTOM

Texas-rig soft plastic (green pumpkin)
Football jig (brown craw)
Drop-shot or shaky on deeper points

Stain / clear match: Clarity unconfirmed this window. Lean shad chrome / white on clearer main-lake; darker craw / Junebug if inflows dirty after midweek storms.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Rio Grande Project storage water. Nights still warm enough that this is not a full fall creek-run — shad-oriented summer leftovers meet stronger point and channel swings.

What's on the menu: Most likely forage is threadfin / gizzard shad on points and channel edges, with sunfish around shallow cover. Start on shad imitators; keep a craw jig ready for rock.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

WHITE BASS · HYBRIDS

Watch schooling activity on main-lake points and channel swings when bait compresses.

CATFISH

Cut bait near deeper holes on warm nights — secondary note only.

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu. Soft weekday recreational pressure; weekend residual possible at State Park ramps.

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

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): NWS trend keeps desert highs in play with a cooler midweek storm chance — better mornings if nights ease. Re-check USBR Elephant Butte pool/release and any 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 — Elephant Butte / Truth or Consequences area · 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 Elephant Butte / Truth or Consequences area pulled Sunday evening Sep 20, 2026; Pure-Gas.org for ethanol-free station identity; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Rio Grande Project context; 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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