



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · OREGON

Applegate · Emigrant: Hot Rogue Basin Weekend & Morning Largemouth

Applegate Lake & Emigrant Lake · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times **PT**

Highs ~87° Fri → ~94° Sat → ~95° Sun (NWS MFR south band)

KMFR ~30.01 inHg (Fri ~4 AM PT)

Applegate pool 1898.96 ft · out ~124 cfs (USGS)

Soft recreational · no named Applegate/Emigrant trail event

Rogue Basin sisters open early October under a hot, dry Medford-office high — pack a shell for the high-40° dawn and water for the mid-90° afternoon, fish Applegate timber and Hart-Tish grass before the sun climbs, then rotate to Emigrant rock when you want a clearer backup.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

NWS Medford (MFR) south-band corridor forecast (MFR 81,75), pulled early Friday morning, keeps the Applegate / Emigrant corridor under a quiet dry Rogue Basin high with cool nights and hot days climbing into the mid-90s. **Friday** opens mostly sunny with a high near **87°F** after an overnight low near **49°F**, south wind 0–8 mph, and no rain in the forecast; Friday night settles near **50°F**. **Saturday** climbs to near **94°F** / overnight low near **53°F**, sunny, northeast breeze 1–5 mph. **Sunday** peaks near **95°F** / overnight low near **56°F**, mostly sunny, south-southeast wind about 3 mph. No active NWS watches or warnings for the corridor at the early-Friday pull. Nearby METAR **KMFR ~30.01 inHg** around 4 AM PT Friday — a settled high over hot afternoon water.

For largemouth on Applegate: lean the low-light timber, Hart-Tish grass, and creek edges hard while nights sit near 50°, then expect a morning-shallow / midday-slide pattern as highs climb into the mid-90s under sunny skies. For Emigrant smallmouth / rock: fish the first Point and County Park stone before the sun climbs, then slide a Ned or tube along deeper rock once light hits the walls. Soft recreational pressure — **no named Applegate or Emigrant trail event** Fri–Sun.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~87°F

Low ~49° overnight / ~50° night · ~0% storms · S 0–8 mph

Mostly sunny

Sunrise **7:09 AM** · Sunset **6:54 PM PT**

Best bite: first light—9:30 AM PT on Hart-Tish / Watkins timber and grass; midday thicker wood and shaded creek edges

SATURDAY OCT 3

~94°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · NE 1–5 mph

Sunny

Sunrise **7:10 AM** · Sunset **6:53 PM PT**

Best bite: dawn on French Gulch / Copper backs; midday Emigrant Point rock once heat and park traffic build

SUNDAY OCT 4

~95°F

Low ~56° · ~0% storms · SSE ~3 mph

Mostly sunny

Sunrise **7:11 AM** · Sunset **6:51 PM PT**

Best bite: first light—mid-morning on lee timber; midday shaded wood and deeper Emigrant rock as heat peaks

BITE TIE-IN

Cool nights + hot sunny days = morning largemouth on timber, grass, and creek edges at Applegate, with Emigrant rock honest early then sliding deeper as highs hit the mid-90s. Protect the dawn window — midday heat pushes fish and anglers to shade.

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Applegate Lake is a USACE Portland District (NWP) flood-control / multi-purpose lake on the Applegate River near Copper; Emigrant Lake is the BOR Talent Irrigation District sister pool near Ashland. Applegate summer full sits near **1,985 ft**; the early-Friday pull shows the pool well into late-season drawdown. There is **no public hour-by-hour hydropower unit board** on Applegate. Live Emigrant elevation was thin at the early-Friday pull — failover Jackson County Parks / BOR Talent pages rather than inventing a number.

SOURCE	LIVE PULL (FRI OCT 2 EARLY PT)	WHAT IT MEANS THIS WEEKEND
Applegate pool USGS 14361900 Applegate Lake near Copper	1898.96 ft ~4:15 AM PT Oct 2 Summer full ~1985 ft	About 86 ft under summer full — late-season drawdown concentrates fish on remaining timber, rock, and creek edges. Confirm Hart-Tish / Watkins ramp feel before you trailer if the pool keeps easing.
Applegate outflow USGS 14362000 Applegate River near Copper	~124 cfs ~4:15 AM PT Oct 2	Modest early-October release — soft current near the dam-face neighborhood, not a sweeping generation push. Soft outflow → bite only.
Emigrant elevation Jackson County Parks / BOR Talent	Thin at pull — no fresh elev IV on scraped endpoints	Confirm Emigrant Lake County Park / Point ramp notes before you trailer. Emigrant is the clearer rock backup when Applegate timber goes quiet.

Failover before launch: USGS 14361900 / 14362000 · USACE NWP Applegate · Jackson County Parks Emigrant / BOR Talent. Dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Soft pool → bite — deep Applegate drawdown still fishes remaining timber and creek edges.

APPLEGATE · TIMBER & GRASS

Hart-Tish, Watkins, French Gulch, and Copper boat-ramp water fish a classic early-fall Applegate pattern: bluegill and crappie in timber early, then bass sliding to thicker wood and creek edges as the sun climbs.

EMIGRANT · ROCK BACKUP

Emigrant Lake County Park / Point rock favors smallmouth and clear-water finesse when Applegate heat or stain builds. Calm dawn pockets favor a compact tube; midday heat favors deeper stone and shade.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Cool Friday dawns and hot Saturday–Sunday afternoons reward a shell early and water later; PFDs on wet rock; dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Start on **Hart-Tish Park** shoreline and **Watkins Campground** walking timber before picnic traffic, then rotate to **Emigrant Lake County Park / Point** when you want rock. Dawn under the mostly sunny high favors a compact buzzbait or frog along Applegate grass; once heat climbs Saturday–Sunday, slow down with green-pumpkin creatures in wood holes and a Ned on Emigrant stone.

KAYAK

Launch **Hart-Tish** or **French Gulch** when you want short paddles into Applegate timber pockets boats rush past, then trailer to Emigrant Point for rocky backups. On calmer dawn pockets Friday–Sunday, work lee grass and wood with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -oz swim jig or stickbait where bluegill chatter, then slide a small crank parallel to Emigrant rock once the sun hits stone. Pack water — Rogue Basin afternoons hit the mid-90s — and give bigger boats the main-lake lanes after late morning.

BOAT

Hart-Tish / Copper boat ramp puts you on Applegate grass and timber first; **Emigrant Lake County Park / Point** is the rock trailer play when you want clearer smallmouth water. Idle the first hour on a frog or waking bait along grass edges, then punch thicker wood as the sun climbs, and keep tubes ready for Emigrant points. Confirm USGS Applegate pool if trailer depth looked skinny last trip — 1899 ft is deep late-season drawdown. Weekend recreational traffic builds by late morning even without a trail blast-off.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Compact frog (black / white) over Applegate grass

Buzzbait on shaded timber edges

Walking bait in slick dawn pockets

MID

$\frac{3}{8}$ oz swim jig (green pumpkin / bluegill)

Squarebill along wood and grass holes

Small crank / tube along Emigrant rock

Soft stickbait for pressured timber

BOTTOM

Texas-rig creature in timber and grass holes

Punch rig / flipping stick in thicker wood

Ned or light jig on Emigrant rock

Wacky stickbait when fish suspend off edges

Stain / clear match: Darker profiles in stained Applegate creek backs; translucent bluegill, green-pumpkin, and natural craw on clearer Emigrant rock. Tie colors to bluegill / crappie and crawfish first.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on the Applegate / Emigrant sisters. Cool nights near 50° and a hot sunny high should pull largemouth onto timber, grass, and creek edges at Applegate while smallmouth stay honest on Emigrant rock. Fish are not locked on a winter deep stack yet — treat this as a morning-shallow, midday-slide / shade pattern as highs climb into the mid-90s. Skip the spawn talk; that chapter is closed.

What's on the menu: Dated hatch reports for this exact window are thin. Most-likely forage this weekend is **bluegill and crappie** in Applegate timber and grass, with **crawfish** on Emigrant rock once the sun climbs, and leftover juvenile baitfish wherever birds tip a school. Start on bluegill-profile swim jigs and creatures at Applegate; keep a craw-colored tube ready for Emigrant stone midday.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

SMALLMOUTH · EMIGRANT ROCK

Emigrant's calling card on Point and County Park stone — keep a tube or Ned ready when Applegate timber goes quiet under midday heat. Soft language only; confirm seasons and creel on the live ODFW page before you keep fish.

CRAPPIE

Crappie still matter in Applegate timber and creek backs — a small jig or soft plastic covers mixed bags when bass pause. Same access rules as bass — legal bank and ramp water only.

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named Oregon club / trail event pulled for **Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4** on Applegate or Emigrant. Expect normal weekend recreational traffic at Hart-Tish / Emigrant Point — earlier launch still beats the picnic and heat crowd. Weekend trail traffic elsewhere stays on Siltcoos / Lower Columbia / John Day Pool / Prineville club — not here.

LOOKING AHEAD

NWS trend stays dry and hot into early next week with highs pushing the mid-90s — classic early-October Rogue Basin mornings if nights stay cool. Heavy Traffic this weekend stays on other OR waters — **none named Applegate or Emigrant** at the early-Friday pull. Next Cast: Monday window.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Ethanol-free stations near the Jacksonville / Medford / Ashland corridor (no pump prices).

- **Applegate Store** — 15095 Hwy 238, Jacksonville, OR (~14 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 92 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Williams General Store** — 20180 Williams Hwy, Williams, OR (~14 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 92 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade

- **Murphy Chevron** — 6410 Williams Hwy, Murphy, OR (~15 mi) · ethanol-free CHEVRON 90/92 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Ashland Hills 76** — 2495 Ashland St, Ashland, OR (~Emigrant ~3.5 mi) · ethanol-free UNION 76 91 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade

Stations from Pure-Gas.org OR list (saved for this water). Listings move — verify literal E0 / ethanol-free grade at the pump. No pump prices published in this Cast.

Sources: NWS Medford (MFR) south-band corridor forecast grid MFR 81,75 · METAR KMFR · USGS 14361900 Applegate pool, 14362000 outflow · Jackson County Parks Emigrant / BOR Talent (elev thin at pull) · USACE NWP Applegate · orbass.com Oregon master schedule · Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station directory · ODFW Southwest Zone recreation report (live regs). Schedules change — confirm pool, ramps, and the forecast before launch.

Freshwater Cast · Friday Cast · Applegate Lake & Emigrant Lake · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~7:10 AM PT