



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · OREGON

Cottage Grove · Dorena: Cool Partly Sunny Weekend & Twin-Pool Bass

Cottage Grove Lake & Dorena Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times **PT**

Highs ~66° Fri → ~66° Sat → ~67° Sun (NWS MFR middle band)

KEUG ~30.01 inHg · KCVO ~30.02 (Fri ~4 AM PT)

CG pool 765.86 ft · Dorena 809.39 ft (USGS)

Soft weekend recreational · no named Cottage Grove/Dorena trail event

Coast Fork and Row River sisters open early October under a cool, dry valley high — pack a shell for the mid-50° dawn, fish Cottage Grove grass and timber before the sun climbs over Lakeside Park, then rotate to Dorena rock when you want smallmouth that still eat a tube on the first stone.

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

NWS Medford (MFR) middle-band corridor forecast (MFR 77,148), pulled early Friday morning, keeps the Coast Fork / Row River corridor under a quiet dry pattern with cool nights and mid-60s days. **Friday** opens partly sunny with a high near **66°F** after an overnight low near **54°F**, north wind 6–12 mph, and no rain in the forecast; Friday night settles near **53°F**. **Saturday** repeats near **66°F** / overnight low near **53°F**, partly sunny, north breeze 5–10 mph. **Sunday** nudges to near **67°F** / overnight low near **53°F**, partly sunny, north wind 5–9 mph. No active NWS watches or warnings for the corridor at the early-Friday pull. Nearby METARs around 4 AM PT Friday sit near **30.0–30.07 inHg** — a settled high, not a storm-edge drop.

For largemouth on Cottage Grove: lean the low-light grass edges, timber pockets, and Wilson Creek cuts hard while nights stay in the mid-50s, then expect a morning-shallow / midday-slide pattern as highs work the mid-60s under partly sunny skies. For Dorena smallmouth: fish the first rock, riprap, and Baker Bay points before the sun climbs, then slide a Ned or tube along deeper stone once light hits the walls. Soft recreational pressure expected — **no named trail tournament pulled** for Fri–Sun on either pool. Looking ahead on the trail calendar: Cottage Grove Bass Club Upper Willamette Oct 17 is next, not this weekend.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~66°F

Low ~54° overnight / ~53° night · ~0% storms · N 6–12 mph

Partly sunny

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

Best bite: first light—~9:30 AM PT on Cottage Grove grass/timber and Dorena rock; midday thicker wood and shaded points

SATURDAY OCT 3

~66°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · N 5–10 mph

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:10 AM** · Sunset **6:52 PM PT**

Best bite: dawn in Wilson Creek / Pine Meadows backs; midday Dorena Baker Bay rock once park traffic builds

SUNDAY OCT 4

~67°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · N 5–9 mph

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:12 AM** · Sunset **6:50 PM PT**

Best bite: first light—mid-morning on lee grass; midday windward rip along thicker timber if the breeze stacks bait

BITE TIE-IN

Cool nights + dry high = morning largemouth on grass, timber, and the first channel cuts at Cottage Grove, with Dorena smallmouth honest on rock and points. Keep a bluegill-profile swim jig and a craw-colored tube ready — that is still this twin-pool early-October menu.

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Cottage Grove and Dorena are USACE Portland District (NWP) Coast Fork / Row River flood-control sisters. There is **no public hour-by-hour hydropower unit board** for anglers — both are flood-control / multi-purpose lakes. Live numbers below are USGS instantaneous values from the early-Friday pull; pool and releases can change.

SOURCE	LIVE PULL (FRI OCT 2 EARLY PT)	WHAT IT MEANS THIS WEEKEND
Cottage Grove pool USGS 14153000 Cottage Grove Lake	765.86 ft ~4:15 AM PT Oct 2	Late-season drawdown is normal here. Lakeside and Wilson Creek still fish grass and timber; confirm USACE / Lane County ramp notes before you trailer if the pool keeps easing.
Dorena pool USGS 14155000 Dorena Lake	809.39 ft ~4:20 AM PT Oct 2	Late-season drawdown concentrates smallmouth on remaining rock, riprap, and Baker Bay points. Confirm Baker Bay marina approach depth if trailer feel looked skinny last trip.
Outflow context USGS 14153500 CG out · 14155500 Dorena out	CG out ~163 cfs · Dorena out ~553 cfs ~4:15–4:20 AM PT Oct 2	Modest early-October releases — soft current near dam-face neighborhoods, not a sweeping generation push. Soft pool → bite only.

Failover before launch: USACE NWP Cottage Grove / Dorena water pages · USGS 14153000 / 14155000 / 14153500 / 14155500 · Lane County Parks for whether ramps are open. Dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Lower late-season pools concentrate fish on remaining grass, timber, and Dorena rock.

COTTAGE GROVE · GRASS & TIMBER

With pool near 765.9 ft, fish Lakeside grass, Wilson Creek timber pockets, and the first channel cuts. Largemouth and panfish both show where wood meets grass on the mid-lake backs.

DORENA · ROCK & ROW RIVER ARMS

Baker Bay, Harms Park rock, and Row River arm points fish a classic early-fall Dorena pattern: crawfish on stone early, then smallmouth sliding deeper along riprap as the sun climbs. Calm dawn pockets favor a compact tube; the north breeze favors a windward rip along rock after mid-morning.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Cool Friday–Sunday mornings reward a shell and PFDs on any wet rock; dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Start on **Lakeside Park** day-use shoreline and **Wilson Creek Park** walking water for visible grass and timber with a Texas-rig worm or small spinnerbait before picnic traffic. Rotate to **Baker Bay Park** shore and **Harms Park** on Dorena when you want rock for smallmouth — skip tubes along riprap and points you can reach without crossing gated swim areas. Dawn under the partly sunny high favors a compact buzzbait along Cottage Grove grass; once the sun climbs Saturday–Sunday, slow down with green-pumpkin creatures in wood holes and a Ned on Dorena stone.

KAYAK

Launch **Lakeside** or **Wilson Creek** when you want short paddles into Cottage Grove timber pockets boats rush past, then ferry toward Dorena's **Baker Bay / Row River arms** for rocky points with a Ned and tube. On calmer dawn pockets Friday–Sunday, work lee grass edges with a ¾-oz swim jig or stickbait where bluegill chatter, then slide a small crank parallel to Dorena rock once the sun hits stone. Pack a dry bag — valley evenings cool fast after sundown PT — and give bigger boats the main-lake lanes around Baker Bay marina after late morning.

BOAT

Lakeside Park ramp puts you on Cottage Grove grass and wood first; **Baker Bay Park marina/ramp** is the Dorena trailer play when you want rock smallmouth or a clearer backup. Idle the first hour on a frog or waking bait along grass edges, then chatterbait stained banks if a breeze or release color shows, and keep tubes plus small cranks ready for Dorena points. Confirm both USGS pools if trailer depth looked skinny last trip — late-season 766 ft / 809 ft still fishes, but creek backs and marina approaches change feel week to week. Weekend recreational traffic builds by late morning even without a trail blast-off.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Compact frog (black / white) over Cottage Grove grass

Buzzbait on shaded timber edges

Walking bait in slick dawn pockets

MID

¾ oz swim jig (green pumpkin / bluegill)

Chatterbait or spinnerbait on stained windy banks

Small crank / squarebill along Dorena rock

Soft stickbait for pressured wood

BOTTOM

Texas-rig creature in grass and wood holes

Tube or Ned on Dorena riprap and points

Light football jig on rock transitions

Wacky stickbait when fish suspend off timber

Stain / clear match: Darker profiles if Coast Fork or Row River releases dirty a bank; translucent bluegill, green-pumpkin, and natural craw on clearer Dorena rock. Tie colors to bluegill / crappie and crawfish first.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on the Coast Fork / Row River sisters. Cooler nights in the mid-50s and a dry high should pull largemouth onto grass edges, timber pockets, and the first channel cuts at Cottage Grove while smallmouth stay honest on Dorena rock. Fish are not locked on a winter deep stack yet — treat this as a morning-shallow, midday-slide pattern as highs sit in the mid-60s. 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 Cottage Grove grass and timber, with **crawfish** on Dorena rock and riprap once the sun climbs, and leftover juvenile baitfish wherever birds tip a school. Start on bluegill-profile swim jigs and creatures at Cottage Grove; keep a craw-colored tube ready for Dorena stone midday.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

SMALLMOUTH · DORENA ROCK

Dorena's calling card on riprap, points, and Baker Bay stone — keep a tube or Ned ready when Cottage Grove grass goes quiet. Soft language only; confirm seasons and creel on the live ODFW page before you keep fish.

CRAPPIE · BLUEGILL

Panfish still matter in Cottage Grove timber and Wilson 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 Cottage Grove or Dorena. Weekend traffic elsewhere: Sat Oct 3 at Siltcoos Lake (Tenmile Bass Club); Sat–Sun Lower Columbia 2-day (Central Oregon Bass Club); Sat–Sun Columbia River John Day Pool championship (Drain Raider Series) — not here. Expect normal weekend recreational traffic at Lakeside / Baker Bay — earlier launch still beats the picnic crowd. Looking ahead: Cottage Grove Bass Club Upper Willamette Oct 17.

LOOKING AHEAD

NWS trend stays dry into early next week with highs near the mid-60s — classic early-October twin-pool mornings if nights stay cool and both pools keep easing. Heavy Traffic this weekend stays on other OR waters — **none named Cottage Grove or Dorena** at the early-Friday pull. Next Cast: Monday window.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Ethanol-free stations near the Cottage Grove corridor (no pump prices).

- **76 @ Buy2 #28** — 2500 East Main Street, Cottage Grove, OR (~5.7 mi) · ethanol-free UNION 76 91 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade

- **Welt & Welt Inc** — 290 E Palmer Ave, Cottage Grove, OR (~5.9 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 87/92/100 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Walt's** — 1115 Pacific Hwy, Cottage Grove, OR (~6.1 mi) · ethanol-free MOBIL 92 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Lorane Family Store** — 80301 Territorial Hwy, Lorane, OR (~13.2 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 92 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) middle-band corridor forecast grid MFR 77,148 · METAR KEUG / KCVO · USGS 14153000 / 14155000 pool, 14153500 / 14155500 outflow · USACE Portland / Cottage Grove & Dorena project info · orbass.com Oregon master schedule · Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station directory · ODFW Willamette Zone recreation report (live regs). Schedules change — confirm pool, ramps, and the forecast before launch.

Freshwater Cast · Friday Cast · Cottage Grove Lake & Dorena Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~6:40 AM PT