



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · OREGON

Owyhee: Cool Desert Weekend, Low Pool & Cliff Smallmouth

Owyhee Reservoir · SE Oregon high desert · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times **MT**

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

KONO ~30.04 inHg (Fri ~4 AM MT)

Pool 2604.83 ft · Below dam ~101 cfs (USGS/BOR)

Remote water · fill fuel before the run · no named trail event

*Southeast Oregon's desert canyon sits low and honest under a cool dry high — pack water and a shell for the mid-50° dawn, fish the first cliff slides before the sun climbs, and let Owyhee's crawfish and leftover panfish tell you where concentrated smallmouth are staging this weekend. Reader clocks on this water are **MT**.*

● WEEKEND OUTLOOK

NWS Medford (MFR) middle-band corridor forecast (MFR 77,148), pulled early Friday morning for the locked Friday weather-band pin, keeps the Owyhee Reservoir corridor under a quiet dry pattern with cool nights and mid-60s days. Reader clocks on this water are **MT**. **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 METAR **KONO ~30.04 inHg** around 4 AM MT Friday — a settled high over a long-fetch desert pool.

For smallmouth: lean the low-light cliff slides, rock points, and remaining brush pockets 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. Low late-season pool concentrates fish — protect the dawn window on Lake Owyhee State Park / McCormack rock, then slide to lee cliffs and Leslie Gulch corridor stone. Soft recreational pressure — **no named Owyhee trail event** Fri–Sun. Fill fuel before the desert run.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~66°F

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

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:46 AM** · Sunset **7:31 PM** MT

Best bite: first light—~9:30 AM MT on State Park / McCormack cliff slides; midday deeper walls and brush pockets

SATURDAY OCT 3

~66°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · N 5–10 mph

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:47 AM** · Sunset **7:29 PM** MT

Best bite: dawn on Indian Creek / Leslie Gulch rock; midday lee cliffs once any recreational traffic builds

SUNDAY OCT 4

~67°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · N 5–9 mph

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:49 AM** · Sunset **7:27 PM** MT

Best bite: first light—mid-morning on lee cliff slides; midday windward rip along rock if the breeze stacks bait

BITE TIE-IN

Cool nights + dry high + low desert pool = morning smallmouth on cliff slides, points, and remaining brush, then a midday slide to deeper stone as the sun climbs. Keep a craw-colored tube or Ned ready — that is still Owyhee's honest early-October menu. Times are **MT**.

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Owyhee Reservoir is a Bureau of Reclamation high-desert pool on the Owyhee River southeast of Nyssa. Full / spillway neighborhood sits near **2,670 ft**; the early-Friday pull shows the lake sitting roughly **65 ft under** that mark. There is **no public hour-by-hour hydropower unit board** for anglers. Live numbers below are USGS / Hydromet-class pulls; pool and releases can change without a friendly heads-up on this remote water.

SOURCE	LIVE PULL (FRI OCT 2 EARLY MT)	WHAT IT MEANS THIS WEEKEND
Pool elevation USGS 13182500 Lake Owyhee near Nyssa · BOR FB	2604.83 ft · ~91,887 acre-ft ~4:30 AM MT Oct 2 Full / spillway ~2670 ft	Late-season desert drawdown is real — ramps, cliff access, and brush line change feel week to week. Confirm Lake Owyhee State Park / county access before you trailer if the pool keeps easing.
Outflow context USGS 13183000 Owyhee River below Owyhee Dam	~101 cfs ~4:30 AM MT Oct 2	Modest early-October release below the dam — expect soft current near the dam-face neighborhood, not a sweeping generation push inside the canyon. Soft outflow → bite only.
Access / remote context Lake Owyhee State Park · Leslie Gulch corridor	Confirm park / BLM access and road conditions before the long desert run	Fill fuel and water before you leave pavement — this is remote high-desert water, not a metro picnic lake.

Failover before launch: USGS 13182500 / 13183000 · BOR Hydromet Owyhee · Lake Owyhee State Park / county notices. Dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Soft pool → bite — low late-season pool concentrates fish on remaining cliff slides and brush.

STATE PARK · MCCORMACK

Lake Owyhee State Park and McCormack Campground rock fish a classic early-fall Owyhee pattern: crawfish on stone early, then smallmouth sliding deeper along walls as the sun climbs. Calm dawn pockets favor a compact tube.

LESLIE GULCH · DAM CANYON

Indian Creek, Leslie Gulch corridor, and dam / lower canyon stone favor clear-water finesse when the main bowl wakes up. Any light breeze favors a windward rip along cliffs after mid-morning.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Cool Friday–Sunday mornings reward a shell, water, and PFDs on wet canyon rock; dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Start on **Lake Owyhee State Park** shoreline and **McCormack Campground** walking rock before any picnic traffic, then rotate to reachable **Indian Creek** stone. Dawn under the partly sunny high favors a compact tube or Ned along visible slides; once the sun climbs Saturday–Sunday, slow down with a green-pumpkin creature in remaining brush and a light football jig on deeper walls. Remote desert — tell someone your plan.

KAYAK

Launch **State Park / McCormack** when you want short paddles into cliff pockets boats rush past, then ferry toward quieter **Leslie Gulch corridor** cuts for clear-water finesse. On calmer dawn pockets Friday–Sunday, work lee canyon walls with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -oz swim jig or tube where bait marks, then slide a small crank parallel to dam-canyon stone once the sun hits rock. Pack a dry bag and extra water — desert evenings cool after sundown MT — and give bigger boats the main-bowl lanes after late morning.

BOAT

Lake Owyhee State Park / McCormack ramps put you closest to classic fall Owyhee transitions: cliff slides, points, and Leslie Gulch rock where crawfish pull smallmouth. Idle the first hour on a tube or wading bait along stone edges, then slide to deeper walls and 10–25 ft rock with a Ned or light football jig as the sun climbs. Confirm USGS pool if trailer depth looked skinny last trip — 2605 ft is deep late-season drawdown, and ramps change feel week to week. Fill fuel before the desert run; weekend recreational traffic stays light but remote.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait in slick dawn cliff pockets

Compact buzzbait on shaded rock edges

Small popper when bait is sipping

MID

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

Tube parallel to canyon walls and points

Small crank / squarebill along rock transitions

Spinnerbait if the north breeze stacks a rip

BOTTOM

Ned or light football jig on stone

Drop-shot on deeper clear-water walls

Texas-rig creature in remaining brush

Wacky stickbait when fish suspend off cliffs

Stain / clear match: Natural craw and translucent profiles on clearer canyon rock; slightly darker if release color shows near the dam face. Tie colors to crawfish and leftover panfish first.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Owyhee Reservoir. Cooler nights in the mid-50s, a dry high, and a low late-season pool should pull smallmouth onto cliff slides, points, and remaining brush while keeping them honest on stone. 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 **crawfish** on canyon rock and points, with leftover panfish / juvenile baitfish wherever birds tip a school, and channel cat leftovers on softer bottoms after dark. Start on craw-colored tubes and Neds; keep a baitfish-profile swim jig ready when schools mark midday.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

LARGEMOUTH · BRUSH POCKETS

Remaining brush still holds largemouth when rock smallmouth pause — keep a creature or swim jig ready. Soft language only; confirm seasons and creel on the live ODFW page before you keep fish.

CRAPPIE · CHANNEL CAT

Crappie and channel cat matter for mixed bags in quieter backs and soft-bottom night bites. 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 Owyhee. Remote recreational traffic is light — the real risk is the long desert run, not a blast-off. Weekend trail traffic elsewhere stays on Siltcoos / Lower Columbia / John Day Pool / Prineville club — not here.

LOOKING AHEAD

NWS trend stays dry into early next week with highs near the mid-60s — classic early-October desert mornings if nights stay cool and the pool keeps easing. Heavy Traffic this weekend stays on other OR waters — **none named Owyhee** at the early-Friday pull. Next Cast: Monday window. Times remain **MT**.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Ethanol-free stations near the Nyssa / Ontario / Harper corridor (no pump prices).

- **Owyhee Grocery** — 2491 Hwy 201, Nyssa, OR (~27 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 91 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Coleman Service** — 3459 US Hwy 20, Harper, OR (~30 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 91 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Nyssa Co-Op Supply** — 18 N 2nd St, Nyssa, OR (~33 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 87 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade

- **Poole Oil Cardlock 24/7** — 2609 SW 4th Ave, Ontario, OR (~42 mi) · ethanol-free PACIFIC PRIDE 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) middle-band corridor forecast grid MFR 77,148 · METAR KONO · USGS 13182500 pool / BOR FB, 13183000 below dam · Lake Owyhee State Park / county access · orbass.com Oregon master schedule · Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station directory · ODFW Southeast Zone recreation report (live regs). Schedules change — confirm pool, ramps, and the forecast before launch. Reader times MT.

Freshwater Cast · Friday Cast · Owyhee Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~7:05 AM MT