



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · OREGON

Prineville: Cool Desert Weekend, Club Trail Sat–Sun & Rock Smallmouth

Prineville Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times **PT**

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

KRDM ~30.07 inHg (Fri ~4 AM PT)

Pool elev thin at pull · BOR Hydromet failover

Central Oregon Bass Club Sat–Sun Oct 3–4 — expect trail traffic

Central Oregon's Crooked River pool opens early October under a cool, dry high — pack a shell for the mid-50° dawn, fish the first Jasper Point rock before the sun climbs, and let crawfish tell you where concentrated smallmouth are staging before Saturday's club blast-off stacks the ramps.

● 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 Prineville Reservoir 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 METAR **KRDM ~30.07 inHg** around 4 AM PT Friday — a settled high over high-desert rock.

For smallmouth: lean the low-light cliff slides, Jasper Point rock, and brushy largemouth 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. Soft recreational Friday; **Central Oregon Bass Club runs Prineville Reservoir Sat–Sun Oct 3–4** — expect trail traffic at blast-off windows and share the ramps. Earlier Friday launch still beats the club stack.

FRIDAY OCT 2

~66°F

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

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:00 AM** · Sunset **6:44 PM PT**

Best bite: first light—9:30 AM PT on Jasper Point rock and State Park shore; midday deeper slides and brush pockets

SATURDAY OCT 3

~66°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · N 5–10 mph

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:02 AM** · Sunset **6:43 PM PT**

Best bite: dawn before club blast-off on lee cliffs; midday share rock lanes away from weigh-in traffic

SUNDAY OCT 4

~67°F

Low ~53° · ~0% storms · N 5–9 mph

Partly sunny

Sunrise **7:03 AM** · Sunset **6:41 PM PT**

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

BITE TIE-IN

Cool nights + dry high = morning smallmouth on cliff slides, points, and the first rock transitions, with largemouth still honest in brushy pockets. Keep a craw-colored tube or Ned ready — that is still Prineville's honest early-October menu. Friday is the quieter ramp day before the club weekend.

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Arthur R. Bowman Dam (BOR) impounds Prineville Reservoir on the Crooked River. There is **no public hour-by-hour hydropower unit board** for angler planning — confirm Hydromet / recreation notices rather than guessing at generator schedules. Live FB elev series was empty at the early-Friday pull; a thin gage/height and discharge cue sat near GH ~2.59 / Q ~99.8 around 3:30 AM — treat the sheet as honest thin pool elev plus Hydromet failover.

SOURCE	LIVE PULL (FRI OCT 2 EARLY PT)	WHAT IT MEANS THIS WEEKEND
Pool elevation BOR Hydromet PRVO / Bowman FB series	Thin at pull — FB elev series empty; GH ~2.59 / Q ~99.8 ~3:30 AM PT	Honest thin official elev this cycle. Jasper Point and State Park ramps typically still fish rock transitions in early October; confirm Crook County / Oregon Parks ramp notes if trailer depth looked skinny last trip.
Bowman Dam / BOR Hydromet PRVO project context	Confirm Hydromet / recreation notices before you trailer if you need official elev/outflow language	Irrigation releases can stain without a friendly heads-up — soft outflow → bite only when boards are thin.
Access / park context Prineville Reservoir State Park · Jasper Point	Confirm ramp hours and any seasonal notices	Club trail Sat–Sun is the real crowd board — share blast-off lanes and leave room at the docks.

Failover before launch: BOR Hydromet PRVO / Bowman · Oregon Parks Prineville Reservoir State Park · Crook County recreation notices. Dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Soft pool → bite only when elev is thin — fish rock and slides you can see.

JASPER POINT · CLIFF ROCK

Jasper Point public rock and cliff slides fish a classic early-fall Prineville pattern: crawfish on stone early, then smallmouth sliding deeper along walls as the sun climbs. Calm dawn pockets favor a compact tube.

STATE PARK · BRUSH POCKETS

State Park shore and brushy largemouth pockets favor a creature or swim jig when rock goes quiet. Club traffic stacks ramps Saturday–Sunday — Friday and first light still beat the weigh-in crowd.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shared: Cool Friday–Sunday mornings reward a shell and PFDs on wet rock; dam restricted zones stay off-limits. Start on **Prineville Reservoir State Park shore** and **Jasper Point public rock** before picnic or club traffic, walking visible slides with a tube or Ned. Dawn under the partly sunny high favors a compact walking bait along cliff edges; once the sun climbs Saturday–Sunday, slow down with green-pumpkin creatures in brush pockets and a light football jig on deeper stone. Give club blast-off lanes room Saturday–Sunday mornings.

KAYAK

Launch **Jasper Point** or State Park day-use when you want short paddles into cliff walls and slides boats rush past, then slide into brushy largemouth pockets with a creature. On calmer dawn pockets Friday–Sunday, work lee rock with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -oz swim jig or tube where bait marks, then parallel a small crank along stone once the sun hits the walls. Pack a dry bag — desert evenings cool fast after sundown PT — and give tournament boats the main-lake lanes after late morning Saturday–Sunday.

BOAT

Jasper Point ramp and **State Park ramp** put you closest to classic fall Prineville transitions: cliff slides, rock points, and brush pockets where crawfish pull smallmouth. Idle the first hour on a tube or waking bait along stone edges, then slide to deeper walls and 8–18 ft rock with a Ned or light football jig as the sun climbs. Confirm Hydromet / park notes if trailer depth looked skinny last trip — thin elev boards still fish rock you can see. Soft Friday recreational traffic; expect club trail stacks Saturday–Sunday blast-off windows.

● 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 cliff slides 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 walls midday

Texas-rig creature in brushy LM pockets

Wacky stickbait when fish suspend off cliffs

Stain / clear match: Natural craw and green-pumpkin on clearer cliff rock; slightly darker profiles if irrigation release color shows. Tie colors to crawfish and leftover baitfish first.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Early-fall transition on Prineville Reservoir. Cooler nights in the mid-50s and a dry high should pull smallmouth onto cliff slides, points, and the first rock transitions while largemouth stay honest in brushy pockets. 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 cliff rock and points, with leftover juvenile baitfish wherever birds tip a school, and panfish / cool-arm brown trout leftovers in quieter backs. 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

Brushy pockets still hold 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 · BROWN TROUT COOL ARMS

Crappie and cool-arm brown trout matter for mixed bags in quieter backs. Same access rules as bass — legal bank and ramp water only.

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

Central Oregon Bass Club at Prineville Reservoir Sat–Sun Oct 3–4 (sourced club calendar). Soft recreational Friday; expect trail traffic at Saturday–Sunday blast-off and weigh-in windows — share the ramps and leave room at the docks. Earlier Friday launch still beats the club stack. Weekend traffic elsewhere: Sat Siltcoos; Sat–Sun Lower Columbia / John Day Pool — not the same ramps.

LOOKING AHEAD

NWS trend stays dry into early next week with highs near the mid-60s — classic early-October Prineville mornings if nights stay cool. Club weekend is the Heavy Traffic note this cycle; next Cast: Monday window after the trail clears.

● PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Ethanol-free stations near the Prineville / Powell Butte / Bend-east corridor (no pump prices).

- **Alfalfa Market Store** — 26161 Willard Rd, Bend, OR (~12.8 mi) · ethanol-free UNBRANDED 91 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Prineville Chevron** — 398 Nw 3rd St, Prineville, OR (~13.8 mi) · ethanol-free CHEVRON 89/91 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade
- **Truax Town Pump** — 612 N W Madras Hwy, Prineville, OR (~14.1 mi) · ethanol-free TOWN PUMP 92 on Pure-Gas.org — verify grade

- **Powell Butte Store** — 13673 Hwy 126, Powell Butte, OR (~15.8 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 KRDM · BOR Hydromet PRVO / Bowman (FB elev thin at pull) · Oregon Parks Prineville Reservoir State Park · orbass.com Oregon master schedule / Central Oregon Bass Club calendar · Pure-Gas.org ethanol-free station directory · ODFW Central Zone recreation report (live regs). Schedules change — confirm pool, ramps, and the forecast before launch.

Freshwater Cast · Friday Cast · Prineville Reservoir · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~6:55 AM PT