



FRESHWATER CAST · FRIDAY CAST · TENNESSEE

Tims Ford: Idle Generators, Cool Dry Mornings & Highlander Shade Playbook

Tims Ford · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · bank / kayak / boat · times **ET**

South-band NWS (Tims Ford pin): Friday mostly sunny then storm chance ~89°, Saturday storm chances ~84°, Sunday storms likely ~77°.

Highs ~83–90° Fri–Sun · lows ~51–66° (NWS HUN)

TMFT1 elev 887.12 · ~245 cfs @ 10 PM CDT Sun

Mon–Tue gens 0 all day CDT · predicted out ~240

No named trail event Fri–Sun · Oct 3 Devils Step lookahead

When Tims Ford posts zeros on the generator board, you fish the highlander playbook — cool mid-50s mornings, sunny shade lines, and bait — not the turbine clock. Pack sunscreen for a dry climb into the upper 80s / 90 by Wednesday, keep fluorocarbon honest on clear rock, and still pull a fresh board before you launch.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Huntsville (**HUN**) grid for the Tims Ford / Winchester–Tulahoma corridor keeps southern Middle Tennessee in a **quiet, warming dry stretch** through the Monday **Cast** window. **Monday** opens partly cloudy overnight then mostly sunny near **83°F** after a low near **51°F**, northeast wind 0–5 mph, and almost no storm chance. **Tuesday** stays sunny near **86°F** / overnight low near **53°F**. **Wednesday** is sunny near **90°F** / overnight low near **60°F** — the warmest afternoon of the window. No active NWS watches or warnings at the Sunday-night pull. Barometer at **KBGF** ~**29.97 inHg** (clear, ~10:45 PM ET Sun) — steady-high. Looking past the **Cast** window, NWS trends toward low 90s Thursday with a better chance of showers later in the week.

For **smallmouth and largemouth** (Tims Ford's honest dual highlander story): lean **first light on bluffs, points, docks, and bait** while the air is cool — idle generators mean the weather and forage clock the bite, not current. Clarity is **unconfirmed** this pull — Tims Ford often fishes clearer, so start natural/chrome and darken only if a hollow stains. Weekday recreational pressure should feel soft; treat Tims Ford State Park as normal traffic, not Heavy Traffic, unless a new calendar listing appears.

Idle generators are not a reason to stay home — they are a reason to stop staring at the turbine clock. Tims Ford's Monday story is cool air, clear-to-stained-unknown rock, and bait on points and bluffs while the dry high climbs from the low 80s toward 90° by Wednesday. Pull TMFT1 anyway before launch; a Sunday/Monday zero board can change without notice, and a thin Tuesday board is honesty — not permission to invent a unit. If a single unit ever appears later in the week, treat it as a soft seam bonus in legal water only.

FRIDAY OCT 2

83°

high · low ~51° · ~0% storms · NE 0–5 mph

Mostly sunny after a cool dawn

Sunrise **7:37 AM** · Sunset **7:34 PM ET**

Best bite: first light—~9:30 AM ET on bluffs/points/docks; idle-gen highlander shade once sun climbs

SATURDAY OCT 3

86°

high · low ~53° · ~0% storms · light/variable

Sunny and dry — warmer afternoon

Sunrise ~7:38 AM · Sunset ~7:32 PM ET

Best bite: dawn shallow again; confirm TMFT1 anyway (likely still quiet) before inventing a current plan

SUNDAY OCT 4

90°

high · low ~60° · ~0% storms · SSE 0–5 mph

Sunny; warmest day of the window

Sunrise ~7:39 AM · Sunset ~7:31 PM ET

Best bite: earlier shallow window before heat builds; shade lines, bluffs, and bait once the afternoon climbs toward 90°

● GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Live **TVA RestApi** pull **Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~6:50 AM ET PM ET** for **TMFT1** (Tims Ford). Board times stamp **CDT** — reader planning stays in **ET** (CDT + 1 hour). Observed through late Sunday evening. **Sunday and Monday** generator boards post **0 all day CDT**; Tuesday–Wednesday gen board thin at pull beyond Monday. Predicted midnight elev / avg outflow through **Tue Sep 29** stays near ~240 cfs. Schedules can change without notice. Failover: **TVA Reservoir Information Line 800-238-2264**. Soft language only — idle generation ≠ dead lake.

LAKE	SUN LATE OBS	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	PREDICTED (MIDNIGHT / AVG OUT)
Tims Ford (TMFT1)	Elev 887.12 · Tail 743.61 · ~ 245 cfs @ 10 PM CDT Sun (~11 PM ET)	Sun–Mon (CDT board): Midnight–Midnight CDT 0 . Tue–Wed gen board thin at pull — do not invent units	09/28 midnite ~887.06 / out ~240 · 09/29 midnite ~887.00 / out ~240

Tims Ford Fri–Sun: Pool 887.12 with only ~245 cfs Sunday evening under an all-day **0** generator pattern. Monday board repeats **0 all day CDT** — fish shade, bluffs, points, docks, and bait rather than current seams. Predicted outflow stays ~240 through Tuesday. Re-check boards Monday evening anyway; schedules can change without notice, and a thin Tuesday board is not permission to invent a unit count.

Main lake: Idle-gen highlander playbook — shade, docks, points, bluffs, and bait on electronics. Natural colors and longer casts until a hollow proves stained.

Dam / Elk River side: Respect restricted zones even at ~245 cfs. Low discharge is not an invitation into the stilling basin.

Creeks / hollows: Protected water for kayaks and a midday heat refuge once Wednesday approaches 90°. This dry window does not invent post-storm stain; keep spinnerbait dark colors in the box for a future cell, not for Sunday night's forecast.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Fish **Tims Ford State Park** day-use banks and public access near Winchester / Estill Springs where posted — dawn and dusk first. Highlander clear-water mindset: longer casts, lighter line, quieter feet on rock. Dawn with a walking bait along shadowed bluffs; once sun hits and the afternoon climbs toward the upper 80s / 90, slow to a green-pumpkin tube, drop-shot, or finesse jig on visible rock and dock shade. Skip restricted dam banks; live TWRA/TVA signs only. Verify park fees and gate hours live. A thermos and a light layer still earn a seat in the truck for that 51° dawn even when the afternoon forecast says 83°.

KAYAK

Favor protected pockets, rock transitions, and lee bluff corners away from open-lake weekday ski lanes. Avoid dam discharge even when generators read zero — stilling-basin water stays off-limits. Launch early, wear a PFD, and keep a take-out plan if wind stacks chop on the main lake. Idle gen means you paddle the weather and forage story, not a turbine seam.

BOAT

Plan: first light—~9:30 AM ET on bluffs / points / docks / bait; midday commit to shade lines and electronics once the dry high climbs. Launch state-park and public ramps early; pull a fresh TMFT1 board anyway — schedules change without notice even when Sunday/Monday posted zeros. Wednesday's ~90° afternoon shortens the shallow window — get on the water earlier or fish shade and deeper bait. Soft recreational Fri–Sun.

● LURE BOX

TOP

Walking bait (chrome / bone / white); small popper on shade; light buzzbait only if clouds hang.

MID

Small swimbait (shad); soft jerk / fluke; spinnerbait only if a hollow stains after any shower.

BOTTOM

Tube or soft craw (green pumpkin / smoke); drop-shot (green pumpkin / smoke); finesse jig on bluff / rock transitions.

Stain / clear match: Clarity unconfirmed — often clearer highlander. Lean natural / chrome / smoke; darken only if a hollow dirties.

● BASS LIFE STAGE

Smallmouth and largemouth — early-fall highlander transition on Tims Ford. Cool nights near 50–53° and a dry high should keep fish relating to bluffs, points, docks, and bait without a turbine clock. Idle generators make this a **morning-shallow, midday-shade** midweek. Keep the dual species story honest — not bass-by-default slogans.

Because the board is idle, life-stage language stays on weather and forage. Cool mid-50s mornings should widen the first-light topwater and shallow rock window; Wednesday's warmer afternoon will compress that same window unless you start earlier or commit to shade.

Smallmouth still own the steeper rock and clearer bluff story; largemouth keep docks, wood, and flatter pockets in play — fish what the lake gives, not a single-species slogan.

● FORAGE THIS WEEK

Dated hatch reports for this exact window are thin. Most-likely forage is **threadfin shad** and other small bait on points and bluff corners, with **bluegill / sunfish** around shallow docks and **crawfish** on rock. Start on shad and natural finesse profiles; keep a craw-colored tube ready for bluff rock.

Ethanol-free fuel near this water · Pure-Gas.org E0 · this water · stations listed near this water — verify E0 at the pump (no pump prices).

Quick Stop — 1818 N Jackson St, Tullahoma TN · ~3.5 mi · 87 octane E0

Broadview Mkt & Deli — 5324 Lynchburg Rd, Winchester TN · ~4.5 mi · 87/89/93 octane E0

Redd's Grocery — 9952 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Lynchburg TN · ~5.9 mi · 93 octane E0 — I buy gas for my boat here because it is E0

Easy Food Mart — 3395 Lynchburg Rd, Winchester TN · ~6.3 mi · 87/89/90 octane E0

Listed E0 stations from Pure-Gas.org (crowdsourced). Availability and grade can change — verify E0 at the pump if grade matters.

Confirm live boards and access calendars the morning you launch.

Weekend recreational traffic rises by late morning on fair days — start early.

Keep a storm or wind backup pattern ready so a short move still produces.

Confirm live TVA boards and Tims Ford park access the morning you launch — weekend traffic builds fast on fair Friday.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

CRAPPIE · SUNFISH

Deeper brush / dock shade;
soft seasonal language.

CATFISH

Cut bait on deeper channel
swings — quiet weekday
nights.

CROWD / HEAVY TRAFFIC

No named trail event pulled
for Fri–Sun. Soft weekday
state-park recreational only.

Regs: live-check only — [TWRA Fishing](#) · [TN eRegulations](#).

Looking ahead (next 1–3 weeks): Cooler clearer air early next week after weekend storm chances. Confirm trail calendars and live boards before the next Monday **Cast**. Next **Cast**: Monday window.

Sources: TVA RestApi observed-data / generation-releases / predicted-data (TMFT1) ~Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~6:50 AM ET PM ET; NWS api.weather.gov HUN/73,64 forecast; METAR KBGF barometer ~29.97 inHg; South Central TN Bassmasters schedule (Oct 3 lookahead only); TWRA fishing / eRegulations live links; Pure-Gas.org E0 station reuse. Failover 800-238-2264. **Schedules change — confirm dam boards before you go.**

Freshwater Cast · Monday **Cast** · Tims Ford · Fri Oct 2 – Sun Oct 4, 2026 · drafted Fri Oct 2, 2026 ~6:50 AM ET