



**FRESHWATER
CAST**
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FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY **CAST** WASHINGTON

Banks Lake: Midweek Window, Local PT Clock & Species-Honest Plan

Monday Sep 21 – Thursday Sep 24, 2026 · Banks Lake · bank, kayak & boat · Monday morning through Thursday evening · times in PT

Mon ~81°

Thu ~67°

OTX · PT

No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu

Banks Lake smallmouth do not need a crowded weekend — early light on rock, a walking bait when they want air, and a Ned when they will not — and Coulee City gives you a clean weekday launch.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS OTX / Banks Lake corridor (grid OTX 81,98; pulled Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 09:53 PM CT): Use the daytime cards below for Mon–Thu planning. All reader-facing clock language is **PT** — never force Central on this water.

Barometer / sky: Re-check local METAR and the NWS office page before launch; Sunday evening boards can miss Monday updates.

Crowd: Weekday soft recreational. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu** in this research pass. Looking ahead 1–3 weeks: re-check major trail calendars and agency pages before the Friday Cast — flag sourced events as **Heavy Traffic** when found. Never invent boat counts or fake tournaments.

WINDOW

Mon–Thu

through Thu evening PT

WATER CLARITY / DEPTH

Estimate: often clearer on main-lake rock; wind can stain soft banks. Dawn: points and rock 5-15 ft. Midday: deeper rock / breaks 15-30 ft for SMB and walleye overlap.

CROWD / PRESSURE

Weekday soft. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu.** Soft recreational only — no invented boat counts.

Primary species: Smallmouth bass. **Also on this water:** see section below — water-first, not bass-by-default when another species leads.

MONDAY SEP 21

~81°F · Mostly Sunny · precip

~0% · wind SE 3 to 10 mph

Dawn primary window for Smallmouth bass

Soft weekday recreational pressure

TUESDAY SEP 22

~76°F · Mostly Sunny · precip

~0% · wind W 3 to 13 mph

Dawn primary window for Smallmouth bass

Soft weekday recreational pressure

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~69°F · Mostly Sunny · precip

~0% · wind SW 3 to 12 mph

Dawn primary window for Smallmouth bass

Soft weekday recreational pressure

THURSDAY SEP 24

~67°F · Mostly Cloudy then

Chance Rain Showers · precip

~29% · wind N 8 mph

Lightning plan — off water for cells

Fish stain lines / edges after cells

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Equalizing reservoir tied to Grand Coulee ops — re-check USBR levels; no invented generator calendar. Treat as a water-level / wind story more than a unit-pulse story unless boards say otherwise. Access hub: **Coulee City Community Park public ramp**. Agency framing: USBR / WDFW.

PROJECT / WATER	OBSERVED	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	HOW TO FISH IT
Banks Lake USBR / WDFW	No live USGS elev/cfs pulled for this product in this batch. Do not invent elev/cfs. Sunday evening boards are often thin — soft re-check before launch.	No fixed Mon–Thu public unit calendar confirmed in this pull. Use agency recording/web boards when listed. Soft re-check language only.	Fish habitat and bait first; when discharge pulses, seams and bait rearrange. Stay out of restricted lock/dam water.

Schedules change — re-check before launch.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Coulee City park riprap and nearby public rock produce at dawn with tubes, Ned rigs, and small walkers. Midday bank shade is limited — fish short windows and move. Watch footing on riprap and respect local park rules.

KAYAK

Kayak the protected pockets and windward rock when the main lake stands up. PFD on, avoid long mid-lake crossings in rising afternoon wind, and keep a simple two-rod SMB kit (topwater + Ned) so you stay mobile.

BOAT

Graph rock lines and bait; rotate walking bait, tubes, and dropshot. Soft weekday recreational pressure expected. Re-check Coulee City ramp conditions if wind piles waves into the basin.

● LURE BOX — TOP / MID / BOTTOM

TOP

Walking bait on calm rock mornings

Popper on points

Small buzzbait on stained soft banks

MID

Spinnerbait on wind-blown rock

Fluke / soft jerk on bait

Crankbait along points

BOTTOM

Ned / mushroom jig

Tube on rock

Dropshot when fish suspend off breaks

Stain/clear: Match darker profiles in stained cover; natural/green/smoke when clearer. Tie lure size to forage below.

● PRIMARY LIFE STAGE + WHAT'S ON THE MENU

Smallmouth bass — Early-fall smallmouth pattern — rock, bait, and light wind set the day.

What's on the menu (dated hatch thin — most likely): Crawfish and small baitfish most likely — green pumpkin, smoke, white, and perch tones. Do not invent a hatch.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- **Largemouth bass** — softer banks and cover
- **Walleye** — deeper breaks
- **Yellow perch** — schooling bait days

WDFW fishing regulations: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulationslive-check only; do not hardcode inches or seasons.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · NEAR THIS WATER

Source: [Pure-Gas.org](https://pure-gas.org) station identity · pulled **Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 09:53 PM CT**

Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 09:53 PM CT) — may change; verify at the pump. Pure-Gas does not publish pump prices. Station-specific E0 prices were not confirmed in this batch — price not listed — verify at pump. Do not treat area regular as confirmed E0.

Ag Link Inc. — 207 N Railroad Ave, Almira, WA · ~17.7 mi · 92 octane E0price not listed — verify at pump509-639-2421[Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Conoco — 302 Basin Street Sw, Ephrata, WA · ~24.0 mi · 91 octane E0price not listed — verify at pump509-754-4132[Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Coulee Playland — 401 Coulee Blvd E, Electric City, WA · ~25.2 mi · 90 octane E0price not listed — verify at pump509-633-2671[Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Whitley Fuel Card Lock — 529 Midway Ave, Grand Coulee, WA · ~26.0 mi · 87 octane E0 — Just started in the premium only.price not listed — verify at pump509-422-3120[Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

● LOOKING AHEAD

Pattern shifts into early October. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu** and **no named looking-ahead trail event pulled for the next 1–3 weeks** on this water from calendars checked in this pass. Re-pull agency boards and trail calendars for the Friday Cast. Flag sourced events as Heavy Traffic when found.

Sources: NWS api.weather.gov (OTX grid OTX 81,98) · USBR / WDFW · USGS where noted · Pure-Gas.org GraphQL stationsByState (Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 09:53 PM CT) · WDFW fishing regulations. Schedules and prices change — re-check before launch.

Freshwater Cast · banks-lake · Monday **Cast** · Monday Sep 21 – Thursday Sep 24, 2026 · drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 09:53 PM CT · do not contact user · Washington map avatar