



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

Potholes Reservoir: Midweek Window, Local PT Clock & Species-Honest Plan

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

Mon ~79°

Thu ~68°

OTX · PT

No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu

Potholes still eats like a desert oasis in late September — pad edges at first light, then rock piles when the sun climbs — and you do not need a Saturday blast-off to get a quality bag.

• MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS OTX / Potholes Reservoir corridor (grid OTX 74,69; 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: stained to lightly stained in pad/dune flats after wind; clearer on rock faces toward the dam. No live turbidity sensor used. Dawn-midmorning: pads, timber, and shallow rock 1-12 ft. Midday: rock piles, dam face, and Lind Coulee transitions often 8-20 ft — adjust to bait on electronics.

CROWD / PRESSURE

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

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

MONDAY SEP 21

~79°F · Sunny · precip ~0% · wind W 1 to 5 mph

Dawn primary window for Largemouth bass

Soft weekday recreational pressure

TUESDAY SEP 22

~75°F · Mostly Sunny · precip ~0% · wind SW 2 to 8 mph

Dawn primary window for Largemouth bass

Soft weekday recreational pressure

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~69°F · Mostly Sunny · precip ~0% · wind SW 5 mph

Dawn primary window for Largemouth bass

Soft weekday recreational pressure

THURSDAY SEP 24

~68°F · Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain Showers · precip ~21% · wind N 3 mph

Lightning plan — off water for cells

Fish stain lines / edges after cells

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

Irrigation / equalizing reservoir in the Columbia Basin project — not a TVA-style unit calendar. Re-check USBR Columbia Basin / local project notices and WDFW Fish WA before launch. Do not invent pool elev or cfs. Access hub: **Potholes State Park public launch (Grant Co.)**. Agency framing: USBR Columbia Basin / WDFW.

PROJECT / WATER	OBSERVED	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	HOW TO FISH IT
Potholes Reservoir USBR Columbia Basin / 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

Work the State Park shoreline and any signed public bank at first light with frogs, buzzbaits, and weightless soft plastics along pad edges. Midday shade is scarce on open dunes — keep bank sessions short, hydrate, and rotate to rock riprap near the launch where available. Respect park hours and posted closures.

KAYAK

Kayaks shine in the pad matrix and protected dune pockets when the main lake chops up. Launch early from the State Park, wear a PFD, and plan an exit if afternoon wind builds across open water. Skip any restricted dam/face zones and treat island rock piles as short hops, not long crossings in a blow.

BOAT

Graph bait and rock piles around Goose Island and along the dam face after the pad bite fades. Keep a Senko or jig ready for follow-ups on missed topwater. Watch weekday recreational traffic near the State Park ramp — soft pressure expected Mon–Thu with no named trail event pulled for this window.

● LURE BOX — TOP / MID / BOTTOM

TOP

Frog / buzzbait on pad edges
dawn and dusk

Walking bait on open pockets
between pads

Popper when fish are sipping
on calm mornings

MID

Bladed jig / chatter through
pad lanes

Spinnerbait along wind-blown
pad edges

Squarebill on rock transitions

BOTTOM

Texas-rig Senko in pads

Skirted jig on rock / timber

Ned or dropshot on deeper
rock piles

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

Largemouth bass — Late-summer into early-fall transition on a Columbia Basin desert reservoir. Largemouth relating to pads and shade early, then rock and bait schools as light rises.

What's on the menu (dated hatch thin — most likely): Most likely: bluegill/sunfish in pads, crawfish on rock, and threadfin/shad where bait balls show — match green pumpkin / black-blue in pads and natural craw or shad profiles on rock. Dated hatch reports thin; do not invent a specific hatch.

● ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- **Smallmouth bass** — rock / island edges
- **Walleye** — deeper breaks and bait schools
- **Channel catfish** — night cut bait near channels
- **Panfish** — pads and brush for a family day

WDFW fishing regulations: [wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations](https://www.wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations)live-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://www.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.

Potholes General Store — 6897 Hwy 262, Royal City, WA · ~0.8 mi · 90 octane E0price not listed — verify at pump509-989-6259[Pure-Gas](https://www.pure-gas.org)

Half- Sun Travel Plaza — 420 Wanapum Dr, Moses Lake, WA · ~8.2 mi · 91 octane E0price not listed — verify at pump509-765-9109[Pure-Gas](https://www.pure-gas.org)

Chevron — 4421 Prichard Rd, Moses Lake, WA · ~8.4 mi · 91 octane E0price not listed — verify at pump509-765-8981[Pure-Gas](https://www.pure-gas.org)

Cenex — 1015 E Broadway Ave, Moses Lake, WA · ~11.5 mi · 91 octane E0 — dont know the octane comes out of separate pump kept under lock and key-no self service.price not listed — verify at pump509-765-3465[Pure-Gas](https://www.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 74,69) · USBR Columbia Basin / 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 · potholes · 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