Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Chatfield Reservoir area

Chatfield Reservoir

Colorado

Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Mountain Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

6/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 21 mph · unsafe chop	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **58–66°F**, lows **30–40°F**, rain chance up to **~1%**. Story is wind — pick banks the breeze is hitting and keep crossings short.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

65° F high

LOW	36°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	E 5 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:45 AM / 4:44 PM

Frame: Cold start — let the sun warm the shallows; the better bite often comes later in the day.

TUESDAY NOV 17

66° F high

LOW	40°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 5–21 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:46 AM / 4:43 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

58° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	WSW 8–17 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:47 AM / 4:42 PM

Frame: Breeziest day — use ripple on wind-blown banks and points; open-water chop is higher risk.

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: E → SSW → WSW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:45 AM MST) → ~9 AM**
- Use any ripple as cover

MIDDAY

- Shade lines, docks, deeper edges
- Electronics for bait height first
- Slow down once the sun is overhead

EVENING

- Revisit shallow shade as sun drops
- Topwater if the surface lays down
- Weekday traffic is lighter — work quiet pockets

FALL TRANSITION **Smallmouth plan: Go subsurface and a notch slower: edges of drop-offs, rocky points and bluff ends between the fall flats and the 20-40 ft winter depth; jerkbait with pauses, small jig or hula grub on the bottom, blade bait ripped off the bottom on points.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Smallmouth are in the late fall transition — water in the low-to-mid 50s, so they are staging on drop-off edges, points and bends between their summer spots and the deep wintering holes.

Basis: estimated water ~54°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

They are bulking up on crawfish and young baitfish, which makes them willing to chase at dawn and picky by noon. What's on the menu: crawfish on rock and gravel and small baitfish around the inlet flats and main-lake points are the most likely meals.

ALSO BITING

Walleye earn a second rod at dawn, dusk, and after dark on rocky points and the edges of the inlet flats, where a jig and minnow or a slow crankbait works.

PRESSURE

Weekday traffic — lighter than the weekend. Fish early, give ramps and swim areas room.

gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 — check the operator page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Chatfield Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 5,431.83 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 7 cfs (Mon 3:00 AM CT)	USACE NWDM
Clarity	In bright, clear water, a drop-shot with a small minnow bait on the first break is the midday choice.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Rocky shoreline near the North boat ramps on the northwest side gives bank anglers quick access to riprap and broken rock where smallmouth cruise at dawn. On the opposite side, the shoreline around the South boat ramp on the southeast shore puts you closer to the inlet flats, where bait collects in light current.

KAYAK

Launch near the South boat ramp on a calm morning and paddle the southern shoreline toward the South Platte and Plum Creek inlet area, where flats and channel edges hold bait. A kayak lets you sit quietly on one rock pile and work a drop-shot, exactly what bright, clear days call .

BOAT

The North boat ramps and the South boat ramp both reach main-lake rock fast, and the park's full-service marina is the base for rentals and slips. Run a walking bait over shaded rocky points at dawn, then idle the first break and watch your electronics for bait in 12 to 20 feet.

LURE BOX

TOP

A walking bait or small popper in bone, chrome, or clear shad over shaded rock at first light. With glassy mornings most of the week, keep it tied on until the sun hits the water.

MID

A small square-bill or medium crank in craw or shad colors on rippled rock, plus a paddle-tail swimbait when bait flickers on top. The west shore on east-breeze mornings is the place for it.

BOTTOM

Tube, Ned rig, drop-shot, and small football jig in green pumpkin, smoke, and brown. In bright, clear water, a drop-shot with a small minnow bait on the first break is the midday choice. Match size to crawfish and small baitfish.