FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Horsetooth Reservoir area

Horsetooth Reservoir

Colorado

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

7 /10

Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 17 mph · open-water chop	+ Clear / sunny (~1%)	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **56–64°F**, lows **30–37°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

63° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	SSW 2–7 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:48 AM / 4:42 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

64° F high

LOW	37°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	S 2–10 mph
RAIN	~1%
SUN	6:49 AM / 4:41 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

56° F high

LOW	30°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	W 10–17 mph
RAIN	~0%
SUN	6:50 AM / 4:40 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SSW → S → W · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:48 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 ~53°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature

NATURAL FORAGE

Fish feed hard on crawfish and young baitfish at dawn, then hold tight to ledges and boulders when the sun is up.

ALSO BITING

Walleye are worth a dusk and after-dark trip on rocky points and humps during this warm spell, with a jig and minnow or a slow crankbait.

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 the operator 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
Horsetooth Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by the operator for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 5,407.56 ft (Sat 11/14)	the operator
Clarity	In Horsetooth's clear water, a drop-shot on the first ledge is the midday standard.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

The rocky shoreline around South Bay, home of the Horsetooth Area Information Center, is the easiest dawn access, with broken rock and points that drop quickly into smallmouth depth.

KAYAK

Launch from Inlet Bay during its 9 AM to 5 PM ramp hours, open through Oct 18, or from South Bay, and stick to the nearest coves and points rather than crossing open water. Calm mornings are ideal for sitting quietly over a single rocky point with a drop-shot.

BOAT

The Inlet Bay ramp by the marina is open 9 AM to 5 PM through Oct 18 and closes for the season Oct 19. Start on shaded points at dawn with a walking bait, then idle the ledges and watch your electronics for bait in 15 to 30 feet. A drop-shot or football jig on nearby rock usually finds bigger smallmouth.

LURE BOX

TOP

A walking bait or small popper in bone or clear shad over shaded points at first light. Calm mornings are the best topwater windows of the week.

MID

A small crankbait in craw colors or a paddle-tail swimbait in natural shad along wind-blown rock. The north wind is the day to keep a crankbait moving down the south-end points.

BOTTOM

Tube, Ned rig, drop-shot, and football jig in green pumpkin, smoke, and brown. In Horsetooth's clear water, a drop-shot on the first ledge is the midday standard. Match size to crawfish and small baitfish.