FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Ridgway Reservoir area

Ridgway Reservoir

Colorado

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

5/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Mostly stable	+ No lightning	− Up to 15 mph · open-water chop	− Rain up to ~71%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **46–55°F**, lows **24–29°F**, rain chance up to **~71%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

54° F high

LOW	29°F
SKY	Mostly Sunny
WIND	ENE 0–5 mph
RAIN	~6%
SUN	6:53 AM / 4:58 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

55° F high

LOW	25°F
SKY	Sunny then Rain Showers Likely
WIND	S 5–15 mph
RAIN	~71%
SUN	6:54 AM / 4:57 PM

Frame: Wet day — fish the front side of the rain; slow down and stay close to cover after it passes.

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

46° F high

LOW	24°F
SKY	Sunny
WIND	WSW 0–5 mph
RAIN	~2%
SUN	6:55 AM / 4:56 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: ENE → S → WSW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING
- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (6:53 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 **Trout plan: Target inflows and shoreline drop-offs as water cools; spoons, spinners and streamers, moderate.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Trout are in the fall transition — following bait into creeks and onto flats as water cools.

Basis: estimated water ~49°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: aquatic insects, small baitfish, and scuds are the most likely foods. Public forage reports are thin, so watch the water: rising fish mean a small spinner or dry fly; no rises mean a spoon or bait near the bottom.

ALSO BITING

Brown trout get aggressive in fall ahead of their spawn, and a jerkbait or larger spoon along rocky shorelines at dawn or dusk can find a big one. Smallmouth bass hold on rock and points and still bite a tube or small crankbait on warm afternoons.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE SPK 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
Ridgway Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE SPK for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 6,851.09 ft (Sun 1:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 254 cfs (Sun 1:00 AM CT)	USACE SPK

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Ridgway has three accessible fishing piers. One is near the Dutch Charlie boat ramp, a short walk from the visitor center, where you can cast a spoon or spinner into deeper water at first light. A second is at Pericles fishing pond in the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk area, an easy, family-friendly spot for bait anglers.

KAYAK

Paddle craft remain open on Ridgway this fall. Launch from the Dutch Charlie area near the boat ramp and slowly troll a small spoon or a wedding-ring spinner with a nightcrawler along the shoreline points at dawn.

BOAT

With the level steady near 6,851 feet, the ramp should look the same as last week. Troll spoons or small crankbaits with a downrigger or leadcore at 10 to 25 feet over the old river channel, or along steep points. Morning is best; be back at the ramp before afternoon storms build, and keep an eye on the western sky.

LURE BOX

TOP

A small inline spinner or a dry fly on calm dawn water, cast to rings where rainbows sip insects along the shoreline flats.

MID

A small spoon, a slim crankbait, or a wedding-ring spinner with a nightcrawler, trolled slowly from a kayak or boat along points at 8 to 15 feet.

BOTTOM

PowerBait or a nightcrawler on a slip-sinker rig from the piers, or a jig tipped with a crawler near the river channel for deeper fish. Size down and use light line on glassy water. Primary species this week is rainbow trout.