FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Canyon Ferry area

Canyon Ferry

Montana

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

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

5/10 — Fair odds

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
− Unsettled · 15°F swing	+ No lightning	+ 5–10 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~99%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **38–53°F**, lows **23–34°F**, rain chance up to **~99%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

53° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Mostly Cloudy
WIND	SE 3–7 mph
RAIN	~19%
SUN	7:30 AM / 4:52 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

42° F high

LOW	27°F
SKY	Rain And Snow
WIND	NW 5–10 mph
RAIN	~99%
SUN	7:31 AM / 4:51 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

38° F high

LOW	23°F
SKY	Slight Chance Light Snow then Mostly Sunny
WIND	NW 5 mph
RAIN	~25%
SUN	7:33 AM / 4:50 PM

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

Window: Mon–Wed · Air: SE → NW · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING
- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:30 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 **Walleye plan: Fish rock and gravel 10-25 ft at low light; jig and minnow or troll stickbaits, moderate.**

BIOLOGY

BASS STAGE

Walleye 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 rising

NATURAL FORAGE

Natural perch, shad, and white finishes cover most sunny scenarios.

ALSO BITING

Northern pike / muskie where present. Weeds and creek mouths early.

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 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
Canyon Ferry Dam & Reservoir	No generation schedule posted by USACE NWDM for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Observed: pool 3,785.74 ft (Mon 4:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 3,061 cfs (Mon 2:00 AM CT)	USACE NWDM
Permit / regs	Confirm length limits and seasons on the live state regulations page before you keep fish.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Shannon Recreation Area shoreline and the dual-ramp public banks are the Helena-side walk-ins this week. Dawn-jig the first rock you can reach for walleye, then slide toward deeper Shannon riprap as the sun clears the Missouri hills.

KAYAK

Launch at Shannon or the Yacht Basin pocket and stay inside protected water until any afternoon breeze shows. Hug 8–14 ft Shannon transitions for walleye early, then point-hop toward the dam only after the sun is up.

BOAT

Idle out of the Shannon dual-ramp at first light, graph the near-shore break for bait, then fan main-lake points toward the dam as the sun climbs. Use any light west or southwest chop to hide crankbaits and jigs on windward 12–20 ft breaks. Electronics matter on this big Missouri pool — look for bait balls and fish the edge.

LURE BOX

TOP

Shallow cranks on riprap dawn. Walking baits if bait is high. Small swimbaits over points.

MID

Jig + minnow / soft plastic. Blade baits on seams. Moderate cranks on breaks.

BOTTOM

Crawler harness / bottom bouncer. Heavier jigs on current. Ned or drop-shot under high sun.