FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CAST

Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Helena Valley area

Helena Valley

Montana

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

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	+ 3–5 mph usable ripple	− Rain up to ~97%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **34–41°F**, lows **28–34°F**, rain chance up to **~97%**. Story is the wet stretch — bite windows ride the rain timing, not the calendar.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

41° F high

LOW	34°F
SKY	Light Rain
WIND	SE 1–5 mph
RAIN	~93%
SUN	—

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

36° F high

LOW	32°F
SKY	Rain And Snow
WIND	NW 5 mph
RAIN	~97%
SUN	—

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

34° F high

LOW	28°F
SKY	Chance Light Snow then Mostly Cloudy
WIND	SW 3 mph
RAIN	~28%
SUN	—

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

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

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (first light CST) → ~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 — statewide median of 22 lake estimates from the observed air record (NOAA ACIS) — no coordinates on file for this lake; no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending rising

NATURAL FORAGE

Natural perch and shad finishes cover most sunny scenarios.

ALSO BITING

Northern pike where present. Weeds and creek mouths early.

PRESSURE

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

DAM & WATER — CONFIRM BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No shared generation/level feed this cycle — check the agency page the morning you fish; releases and pool levels change daily. Stay outside buoyed restricted zones.

ITEM	NOTE	SOURCE
Confirm	Managing agency page for this water	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Begin fishing Helena Valley Reservoir public shoreline near the recreation access with a covering lure for walleye, then camp on contact. Confirm park rules at Helena Valley Reservoir before you settle. Local access note: FWP FAS: Helena Valley Reservoir.

KAYAK

Make Helena Valley protected shoreline home until wind declares otherwise. Soften presentations for walleye as sun climbs. At Helena Valley Reservoir, spray skirt layer matters.

BOAT

Anchor the route on Helena Valley public ramp and open water. Idle wide, cast walleye, keep wakes off bank rods. Helena Valley Reservoir pressure is real even.

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.