Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Smith area

Smith

Montana
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Central Time · Trout

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 **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 — 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

Small natural profiles and flash in moderation fit clear sunny water.

ALSO BITING

Low-light rock and deeper breaks. Yellow perch.

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

Launch the shore day from Smith Lake FAS shoreline and legal public banks. Keep a spare spool you trust for rainbow trout snags. Smith Lake under MT sun still burns through thin cloud.

KAYAK

Plan the paddle around Smith Lake FAS protected water first with a rainbow trout focus and Smith Lake safety habits. Leash, PFD, return time. Local access note: FWP FAS: Smith Lake.

BOAT

First stop Smith Lake FAS ramp and open water. Do not burn a tank circling empty banks when two points already match rainbow trout. Pack out line at Smith Lake.

LURE BOX

TOP

Small spoons at dawn. Inline spinners near the dam. Dry flies on calm mornings.

MID

Nymphs and soft hackles. Small jigs under a float. Light spoons mid-depth.

BOTTOM

Heavier spoons under high sun. Egg patterns near inflow. Slow retrieves on the bottom.