Monday Cast live · Nov 16–18, 2026

Weather
National Weather Service forecast for Rufus Woods Lake area

Rufus Woods Lake

Washington
Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18, 2026 · Pacific Time · Smallmouth

BITE ODDS · THIS CAST

Strong odds

9/10

0 2 4 6 8 10

PRESSURE	STORMS	WIND	SKY / RAIN	BASS STAGE	CROWD
+ Stable pattern	+ No lightning	+ 2–6 mph usable ripple	~ Rain up to ~32%	+ Fall transition	+ Weekday · lighter traffic

WEEK Early-week setup on this water — highs **45–48°F**, lows **31–33°F**, rain chance up to **~32%**. Story is light and bait position — dawn and last light carry the window.

THREE-DAY WEATHER

MONDAY NOV 16

48° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Sunny
WIND	SE 2 mph
RAIN	~4%
SUN	7:06 AM / 4:19 PM

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

TUESDAY NOV 17

46° F high

LOW	31°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Sunny
WIND	NW 2 mph
RAIN	~5%
SUN	7:07 AM / 4:18 PM

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

WEDNESDAY NOV 18

45° F high

LOW	33°F
SKY	Patchy Fog then Chance Light Rain
WIND	N 6 mph
RAIN	~32%
SUN	7:09 AM / 4:17 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 → N · Bite window: dawn + last light

HOW TO FISH THIS WEATHER

MORNING

- Shallow cover, points, creek mouths
- **First light (7:06 AM PST) → ~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 ~50°F — 75-day observed air record (NOAA ACIS) lagged for a lake (14-day

NATURAL FORAGE

What's on the menu: Most-likely menu: baitfish where schools show on the graph, plus crawfish on rock. No dated forage survey was available, so match baitfish and craw profiles first.

ALSO BITING

Rainbow trout on Rufus Woods carry a daily limit of 2 under the 2026–27 pamphlet (check current size notes before you keep fish). Smallmouth on park rock are the best bass side note.

PRESSURE

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

response); no water-temperature gauge on the lake; air record trending falling

DAM & WATER — GENERATION SCHEDULE

FIXED Dam-controlled water. No generation schedule posted by USACE Seattle District 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
Chief Joseph Dam	No generation schedule posted by USACE Seattle District for Mon Nov 16 – Wed Nov 18 Generating now: turbines passing 77,700 cfs at last reading (Mon 2:00 AM CT) Observed: pool 953.10 ft (Mon 3:00 AM CT); observed outflow (USACE) 63,900 cfs (Mon 3:00 AM CT)	USACE Seattle District
Permit / regs	License rules change by shoreline: Douglas County shore needs a Washington license; Colville Reservation shore has separate permit rules.	
Clarity	Stain / clear match: No clarity report was posted.	

ACCESS — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public rock near Bridgeport State Park is the realistic bank start. Walk safe shoreline with a tube or jig when footing is honest, and leave restricted dam shoreline alone. Bank access is secondary to boat graphing for walleye — keep expectations honest.

KAYAK

Only for skilled paddlers with a wind plan. Wear a PFD, respect fetch on Rufus Woods, and skip the paddle if winds oppose current or open water chops. Pack a jig and a tube for protected rock near the park.

BOAT

Launch at Bridgeport State Park, graph bait on the first break, then drag harnesses, blades, and jigs for walleye. Keep a tube ready for smallmouth on park rock. Soft weekday recreational at Bridgeport — still launch with a wind plan.

LURE BOX

TOP

Blade bait when walleye mark high. Small walker on calm park rock for smallmouth. Spoon or spinner for opportunistic rainbows.

MID

Worm harness behind a bottom bouncer on the first break. Spinnerbait along rock transitions. Soft jerk in baitfish colors when schools show.

BOTTOM

Jig in craw or chartreuse on deeper breaks. Tube on park rock for smallmouth. Ned rig once the sun climbs.