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My husband was raised on Hinckley Lake and last year we moved to the area as well. We have lake access that is extremely limited only to certain times of year based on the water level. We live in a cove that feels the effects of water being pulled almost immediately. Twice this year we have gone to bed after checking the boats to wake up to find them beached in the morning. The amount of time, sweat, and tears that went into those days-I could never truly communicate. This was in direct result of the amount of water that was pulled from the lake after there had been no rain or precipitation to balance this out.

We love summer, and our ability to be out on the water with our friends and family. However, to have that ability solely dictated by how much water has been pulled from the lake is extremely frustrating. Added to that frustration is the amount of anxiety we have over leaving our boats in the water overnight. I know we are not alone in our feelings and many of our relatives and friends no longer even come to the lake for fear of similar occurrences.

This summer we were unable to get either of our boats out where we live due to water level. Our cove drained so quickly that we had to find an alternate location. This meant pulling our boats out even earlier in the season than we normally would have solely based on water level. We were hard pressed to find anyone with water that was any better off.

Due to the current release diagram, my husband and my family lost countless hours out on the water doing what we love. Something has to change.

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