

Robert Fish

I live on Covington Creek, which is directly fed by Lake Sawyer. I have lake access for my boat, because I live 4 lots from the actual lake. Normally the "canal" in front of my house is about 50 ft wide and 44" deep and flows past my property, which spills over a small concrete dam/weir and eventually connects to the Green River east of Auburn. There's a Salmon hatchery on Covington Creek near where it connects. In 2018 Covington Water District drilled 4 wells, right NEXT to the lake and started taking water. Each yr, they pump more and more from this 272 acre lake. This yr, I had to remove my 18ft boat, August 1st, the water level was so low I couldn't use it. Neither could my other 35 canal neighbors....The public boat launch is no longer useable due to the water level being down 44". Compared to ALL the other lakes within 10 miles of here...they are all down approx 12"...Never had a problem whatsoever until Covington Water district drilled the 4 wells and they take 1.2 MILLION GALLONS, per day....All the fish in my canal have died, due to no dock cover and extremely hi water temps, the vegetation has probably increased 6 fold over what it used to be. And the dried up canal bottom, is now probably 24" deep of thick, gooey mud from the vegetation dying off. My boat used to be useable thru mid october, when there was still 24" of water in my boathouse/dock area. The canal used to fill back up each yr by Dec 1st. Last yr it was Jan 1st. This yr, maybe by Feb 1st?? In 29 yrs at my house, I have never, EVER seen the water level this low. I need to get my weed wacker out to take care of the vegetation that's growing where my boat normally sits, this time of yr....I seriously doubt the salmon have a chance at coming into my lake or swimming upstream to the other creeks that feed this lake. The Blue Herons we used to see on my dock are gone, the bull frogs I hear at night are gone, the eagles have disappeared, and the canal completely dries up a couple hundred yards from the 48" tall weir it spills over in the winter.. Here's a few photos.





