

**From:** [bendnorman@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:bendnorman@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Bennett Norman](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on the Eklutna River Draft Fish and Wildlife Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 3:42:56 PM

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Dear Owners of The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

Hello,

Chugach Electric, Matanuska Electric, and the Municipality of Anchorage need to adopt the vision for the Eklutna River endorsed by the Village of Eklutna and Eklutna Inc. The vision demands a level of restoration that allows for the habitat of all five species of Pacific salmon. Chugach's preferred alternative will leave a segment of the Eklutna River dry. This will inhibit the return of sockeye salmon as they require lake habitat to spawn. This proposed plan is not in line with the Village of Eklutna and Eklutna Inc.'s vision for the river or the 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement, which mandates that the utilities must mitigate their impacts on sockeye salmon and their spawning grounds.

We have an opportunity to completely restore the Eklutna River and a food source for the Eklutna people. I'm very supportive of cheap and renewable energy, but keeping the damn intact is not worth the social and cultural cost. Across the country, utilities, localities and states are recognizing the harm of forced damming of cultural significance waterways and are starting to completely remove dams. The Klamath River damn removal started just the other week and it was announced 4 dams on the Lower Snake River will be removed. This is the moment to write an enormous historical wrong. Please don't fall short. Restore the entire Eklutna River.

Sincerely,  
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