

From: [Meghan Barker](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Eklutna comment
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:41:47 PM

Dear operators,

I strongly oppose the draft Fish and Wildlife plan that was proposed for the Eklutna River that leaves a mile of the river dry, fails to provide fish passage to critical habitat, and is contrary to the wishes of the Indigenous People of Eklutna.

As a recreational angler, I know the importance of intact habitat and healthy streams. As the region continues to grow in population size, a thriving and fish-filled Eklutna River can help meet the needs of increased use of our local fisheries. On top of fishing, I visit the Eklutna area as a runner, skier and paddler; I often bring visitors to Eklutna to show them an iconic Southcentral Alaska location. I want to be able to speak to the health of the fishery when I bring them here instead of showing a dried out river.

Additionally, the Native Village of Eklutna has clearly communicated its vision for thriving wild salmon in the Eklutna River and adjacent waters. We have a responsibility to honor the wishes of the original stewards of this land, who have kept Eklutna the incredible place that it has been for generations.

Please remove the Eklutna Dam, fully reconnect the river, and return the water flows needed to support the fishery.

Sincerely,
Meghan Barker
Anchorage (99516)