

**From:** [sjfleischman@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:sjfleischman@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [STEVE FLEISCHMAN](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Free the Eklutna River  
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Dear Operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Fish and Wildlife Plan proposed for the Eklutna River.

Unfortunately the proposed plan would continue to prohibit salmon from returning to the lake and upper tributaries to spawn. The plan would also fail to return the river to its historic flow levels, further impacting habitat and wildlife.

As an Anchorage resident and taxpayer that has recreated in the Eklutna watershed at least one hundred times in the past 35 years, I strongly urge you to heed the recommendations of the Native Village of Eklutna to remove the dam and fully restore the Eklutna River. Not only would removing the dam restore salmon to the river, it would avoid financially burdening utility ratepayers and MOA taxpayers with a short-term, insufficient plan. Instead, the dam removal costs could be covered by two nonprofit organizations who have agreed to pay for it.

You have the opportunity to be leaders in learning from historic mistakes of damming rivers, in restoring a wild salmon run, and in righting a historic wrong on the Eklutna River.

Sincerely,  
STEVE FLEISCHMAN  
Anchorage, AK 99501-4268  
[sjfleischman@ymail.com](mailto:sjfleischman@ymail.com)