

From: agrappoport@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ann Rappoport](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Comment on the Eklutna River Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 2:58:27 PM

Dear Owners of The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

It's time to remove the Eklutna Dam and work to restore precious salmon runs all the way up the Eklutna River, including into the lake! This will mitigate the 73-year impact of the dam and fulfill the 1993 Mitigation Agreement that was signed by all involved parties. Dam removal will restore salmon that have been important to the subsistence and culture of the Eklutna people who live in the area.

I recognize that the power from the dam - only a fraction of what Anchorage uses each year - may seem more important as a clean energy option as our gas supplies are drying up over the next several years. But a smart alternative has been proposed that will protect the energy provided by the dam while it is most needed, and will also allow the restoration of this important subsistence, cultural, and ecological resource.

That option is the one that has been carefully studied and is supported by not only the federal agencies with responsibility for the fish and associated natural resources of the Eklutna area (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service), but also the Eklutna tribe that has subsisted here for generations, and conservation groups such as the The Conservation Fund and Trout Unlimited.

I urge you to accept and implement this option, which is to remove the dam in 10 years. This will provide enough time for planned renewable energy projects to come online. Moreover, two groups have come forward to generously cover the full cost of dam removal, so that Anchorage ratepayers will not be burdened. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Conservation Fund and Trout Unlimited for providing these funds. This will save ratepayers money and restore an environmental gem to Anchorage. Most importantly, it's the right thing to do.

By the way, I am not new to this discussion, or the science behind the proposal. I was the Field Supervisor for the Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office in the 1990s and 2000s when the mitigation plan for the Eklutna River was first being developed. Back then we worked with all the involved groups, including the Conservation Fund, the Eklutna Tribe, and the Municipality to determine how to best restore the salmon and the river so that all would benefit. It's time to put this best option of dam removal in place!

Sincerely,
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