

From: mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com on behalf of [Kyle Foster](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: New Message From Eklutna Hydro - CONTACT US
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 5:46:32 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal known as the "AWWU Portal," put forth by the group identified as The Owners. This proposition, aimed at mitigating the Eklutna River, is insufficient and fails to address the critical needs of the river's ecosystem, particularly concerning the thriving of all five species of salmon that historically inhabited those waters.

The 1991 agreement, to my understanding, was established with the intent of preserving the Eklutna River's ecosystem in a manner that mirrors its natural state as closely as possible. The proposal in question deviates significantly from this intention, offering a solution that undermines the ecological and cultural heritage of the area. The reliance on the AWWU Portal as a mitigation strategy overlooks the importance of maintaining a balanced and diverse salmon population, which is essential not only for the ecosystem but also for the cultural fabric of our community.

It is indeed challenging to provide concrete evidence of the species present in the Eklutna River prior to its current state. However, the oral histories and faithful stories passed down by the indigenous people of this region offer invaluable insights into the river's original biodiversity. These narratives highlight the presence and significance of all five salmon species, underscoring the importance of restoring the Eklutna River to a state that supports their lifecycle and migration.

Furthermore, the economic implications of a river ecosystem rich in salmon cannot be overstated. The Kenai River, with its abundant sockeye salmon population, serves as a vivid example of how such ecosystems can become economic staples for their communities. It showcases the potential economic benefits that could be realized in Anchorage by emulating a similar focus on ecosystem health and salmon population support.

In addition to the ecological and economic benefits, the construction of a new dam with an effective fish passage represents a viable alternative that aligns more closely with the goals of the 1991 agreement. Such an infrastructure project would not only facilitate the migration and repopulation of all salmon species but also stimulate our local economy by creating job opportunities. This approach offers a holistic solution that respects our environmental, cultural, and economic needs.

I firmly believe that the AWWU Portal proposal falls short of the comprehensive and sustainable solution required to restore the Eklutna River to its natural glory. It is imperative that we explore alternatives that prioritize the return and flourishing of all five salmon species, thereby honoring the legacy of our indigenous communities and securing a prosperous future for Anchorage.

I urge you to reconsider the current proposal and to seek a path forward that truly reflects the original spirit of the 1991 agreement. Let us commit to a solution that fosters a thriving ecosystem, respects our cultural heritage, and leverages the economic potential of our natural resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kyle Foster