

From: klnaiman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Karen Naiman](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Free the Eklutna River!
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:41:32 AM

Dear Operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

These are my comments regarding the draft Fish and Wildlife Plan proposed for the Eklutna River.

Thriving Salmon runs are essential to the majority of Alaskans, as a source of income, a way to practice culture or a way of filling the freezer.

Unfortunately, the Eklutna River has been disrupted for nearly 70 years, causing Salmon to significantly struggle, and negatively impacting the Peoples of Eklutna and South Central residents.

The proposed plan, unfortunately, omits a complete mile between the lake and the portal valve which would continue to prohibit Salmon from returning to the lake and upper tributaries to spawn.

The plan would also fails to return the river to its historic flow levels, further impacting habitat and Wildlife.

The recommendations of the Native Village of Eklutna need to be included in the plan 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.

This is an 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,
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