

From: grizzalo@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennifer Nitz](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Eklutna River
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:27:58 PM

Dear Operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

I am writing to comment on the draft Fish and Wildlife Plan proposed for the Eklutna River. Thriving salmon runs are essential to the majority of Alaskans yet the Eklutna River has been disrupted for nearly 70 years, causing salmon to significantly struggle, impacting the Peoples of Eklutna and Southcentral residents. The proposed plan 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 fail to return the river to its historic flow levels, further impacting habitat and wildlife.

I urge you to heed the recommendations of the Native Village of Eklutna to remove the dam and fully restore the Eklutna River. Removing the dam would restore salmon to the river, and would avoid financially burdening utility ratepayers and MOA taxpayers with a short-term, insufficient plan. The dam removal costs could be covered by two nonprofit organizations who have agreed to pay for it.

Take this 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,
Jennifer Nitz
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