

From: [Michelle Beadle](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Comment from Russell Burdette
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 5:02:25 PM

This comment is on behalf of Russell Burdette

Now is your time to act for Eklutna salmon. As operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project, you are legally required to make up for the project's impacts to fish, wildlife and their habitat. The decisions you make today will determine whether Eklutna salmon can recover and once again return in abundance. The fate of Eklutna wild salmon is in your hands. Please respect the gravity of your actions and choose accordingly.

Native Village of Eklutna has clearly communicated their vision for thriving wild salmon in the Eklutna River, including in Eklutna Lake and headwater tributaries. Your ratepayers and Alaskans support this vision. The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project deprives the Eklutna River of water and blocks salmon from migrating in and out of Eklutna Lake. The utilities have the obligation to make up for these impacts and do right by the Eklutna people and the Eklutna River.

Salmon populations will not recover without a reliable and consistent supply of water and access to important up-stream spawning and rearing areas. Sockeye salmon will not return if they cannot access Eklutna Lake and its tributaries. CEA, MEA and MOA cannot meet their mitigation obligations with anything less. Since it was originally built in 1955, Eklutna Hydroelectric Project has been a barrier to salmon migration and cut off water to the Eklutna River, causing a dry channel devoid of salmon for most of its length. Now is your one chance to make this right.

Russell Burdette
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