



February 1, 2024

\*\*\* sent via email: [Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov)  
[Senate.Resources@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Resources@akleg.gov)  
[Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov)

Re: Executive Order No. 132

Dear Senator Kiehl,

On behalf of Sealaska Corporation, I write in opposition to the adoption of Executive Order No. 132 that would eliminate the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

The interests of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve are best served when citizens have direct participation in the development and monitoring of the management plan for the Preserve.

The lands encompassed in the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve are the ancient homelands of the Tlingits of Haines and Klukwan. They are also their current homelands.

As you might be aware Haines did not receive land under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) and Klukwan ANCSA lands are located some three miles away from the Village. Thus, the lands in the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve have become even more significant to the Chilkat/Chilkoot Tlingit.

We strongly believe that the Department of Fish and Game should continue to consult with the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council before the adoption of regulations governing fish and game management in the Preserve by the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game. I am sure that you are aware that subsistence hunting and fishing and traditional uses of the Preserve remain critical for Alaska Native food security and our cultural survival.

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council has worked diligently to protect the Chilkat Bald Eagle from adverse environmental impacts. It is critical that they continue to participate in the development and monitoring of the management plan for the Preserve.

The bald eagle might have some national significance, but that pales in comparison to the significance of the bald eagle in Tlingit history and culture. If there is going to

Sealaska

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be any integrity in the concept of local control in Alaska, the voice of the original locals will endure.

I understand that the Senate Resources Committee is holding a hearing on Executive Order No. 132, and I respectfully request that my comments be added into the Hearing record. I further urge that you in representing both Haines and Klukwan oppose its adoption.

Respectfully,



Joe Nelson | Kaaxúxgu  
Executive Chairman

cc: Chilkat Indian Village  
Chilkoot Indian Association

CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE



"Yee gu.aa yax x'wan."

**An Indian Reorganization Act Village  
Under Act of Congress June 18<sup>th</sup> 1934  
32 Chilkat Avenue Klukwan, Alaska  
Haines, Alaska**  
[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

February 1st, 2024

To Senators Kiehl, Bishop, Giessel, Wielechowski, Kawasaki, Kaufman, Dunbar, and Claman,

Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) is a Federally- Recognized Tribal government with inherent sovereignty and our Tribal constitution requires us to protect our Tribal lands and the interests of our Tribal members.<sup>1</sup>

Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) engages in Government-to-Government consultation with the U.S. federal government, State of Alaska and local governments on projects and actions that impact our traditional lands and waters. Our traditional lands extends over 2.6 million acres from Stonehouse, north of the Canadian border, to Berner's Bay, north of Juneau. The mountains are our fenceposts. This valley has supported our way of life since time immemorial, and we want to ensure we can continue our traditional ways of life into the future to the Seventh Generation.

**We are asking the Alaska State Legislature to reject Executive Order 132 by passing a Special Concurrent Resolution protecting the integrity of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.** The State of Alaska has been committed to the health and welfare of Chilkat Bald Eagles since 1972, when the Alaska State legislature first created a "critical habitat area" for Chilkat Bald Eagles encompassing pieces of our traditional lands where eagles congregate during fall migration to feed on our late fall wild salmon runs. The state of Alaska legislature identified places for future study and protection, and these lands, through a four-year cooperative research effort, became the designated boundaries of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in June 1982. Chilkat Indian Village has held a seat on the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council since its inception in 1982. The Advisory Council ensures that cooperative governance over these state lands and waters protects local involvement in all decisions.

**Executive Order 132** would remove our seat at the table on the Advisory Council. It will remove our Tribal voices from any management decisions made in the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.<sup>2</sup> Without the Advisory Council, no governing body with Alaska Native voices is available to decide on issues that will impact our traditional ways of life.

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<sup>1</sup> CIV is organized pursuant to the authority of the Acts of Congress of 18 June 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and 1 May 1936 (49 Stat. 1250) (Alaska IRA) and in accordance with Alaska IRA secZons 16 & 17. CIV is also federally-recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. See 88 Fed. Reg. 2112, 2115 (Jan. 12, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> From Sec. 41.21.618 – "The level and method or means of traditional use may continue subject to reasonable regulation unless the director of the division of parks of the department, after consultation with the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council, makes a finding that the level or method and means of use is causing

**Executive Order 132** would remove our ability to participate in stewardship of the Chilkat Valley lands and waters. It will remove our ability to share our traditional knowledge and history of the area to guide management of the Bald Eagle Preserve. The original preserve designation was based on cooperative research studies that our Tribal Government reviewed during the plan's creation. The Advisory Council in consultation with federal, state, Tribal governments and agencies, decides when and in what ways to conduct new management planning processes. By removing this advisory council, the governor is giving all control to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, removing any local control or Tribal government representation in decision-making.

If enacted, Executive Order 132 may lead to federal government action to protect lands and waters in the valley. The original proposal to protect lands and waters for salmon and Bald Eagles in the Chilkat Valley would have created a National Wildlife Refuge. Our Tribal Government was opposed to the original plan for the bald eagle preserve because we were concerned about the loss of our traditional lands and waters, including specific Native Allotments. We lobbied against the designation of the preserve. Because all parties involved proceeded with a state preserve guided by an Advisory Council where we have a seat at the table, we support the current preserve through the Advisory Council. The state of Alaska cannot simultaneously say that it supports "local control" when it comes to the federal government's actions, and then take away local control from its own residents. Governor Dunleavy is proposing an action that would remove all local control over the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, and so it will be possible that federal action will be necessary to ensure the protection of fish and wildlife in the Chilkat Valley. Bald Eagles are federally protected under the Bald Eagle Protection Act. Recent research in the Chilkat Valley estimates that at least 2% of the Bald Eagle population for North America relies on the Chilkat Valley during fall migration – an important time for Bald Eagles to find food sources. The Chilkat Valley has both fall salmon runs, and large congregations of water birds, the two main food sources for Bald Eagles during the autumn season. It is possible that this Executive Order will lead to an outcome where the federal government requires oversight of state of Alaska activities and local voices will be lost. We have supported the Bald Eagle Preserve specifically because we have a seat on the Advisory Council.

Protecting the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council saves the state of Alaska money and time in dealing with conflicts. Without local control and Tribal government involvement in decision-making for this area, it is possible the state of Alaska will have to deal with more legal challenges and costly conflicts in user groups. The formation of the advisory council solved many issues and has at times been very active and instrumental in shaping management decisions. For example, when commercial guides were actively baiting eagles for their tour operations, the Advisory Council worked hard to stop this activity before the federal government had to be involved due to federal regulations. The advisory council gives local

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significant resource damage that is inconsistent with AS 41.21.610(a) and (b). The director of the division of parks shall hold a public hearing in Haines and Klukwan before restricting a traditional use permitted under this section."

voices a chance to share local knowledge to solve problems. It is a model of cooperative governance that should be modeled across the state, not dismissed by Executive Order.

**Please work together to deny Executive Order 132.** The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council was established under state law through multi-year compromise led by the Alaska State Legislature, state and federal governments, local community leaders, and Tribal Government and Native Corporation engagement. Each of these government and citizen entities now have seats at a table that determines actions and issues on these state lands and waters. Executive Order 132 would dissolve this diverse coalition of local knowledge and voices and consolidate power in one agency in the State of Alaska with no local presence in the Chilkat Valley. Our Tribal Government has challenged several decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in the Chilkat Valley, most of which have been met with no response from the agency. We cannot trust that they will act in partnership with us if given authority over the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

Our Tribal Constitution requires us to protect the lands and waters of our Grandfathers for future generations by ensuring that our voices are represented on the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. We ask that you support our voices being heard on our Grandfathers' and Grandchildren's lands, through the Alaska Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council as it was intended to when created. **We are asking the Alaska State Legislature to reject Executive Order 132 by passing a Special Concurrent Resolution protecting the integrity of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.**

Gunalchéesh,



Kimberley Strong  
President  
Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan)

Cc:

Senate Resources Committee, [Senate.Resources@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Resources@akleg.gov)  
Representative Andi Story, [Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov)  
Mayor Tom Morphet, Haines Borough, [tmorphet@haines.ak.us](mailto:tmorphet@haines.ak.us)  
Representative Geran Tarr, [Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)  
Representative Andy Josephson, [Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)  
House Resources Committee, [house.resources@akleg.gov](mailto:house.resources@akleg.gov)



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
P.O. Box 25500 • Juneau, Alaska 99802

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February 2, 2024

Sent via email: [Senate.Resources@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Resources@akleg.gov)  
Cc: [Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov); [Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov)

**Re: Executive Order No. 132**

Dear Co-Chairs Giessel and Bishop and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), I write in opposition to Executive Order No. 132 to eliminate the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council (Advisory Council).

The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is the largest federally recognized tribe in Alaska, representing 37,000 tribal citizens in communities stretching over 43,000 square miles (about half the area of Colorado) across the Southeast Alaska Panhandle and beyond. Our traditional homelands encompass a 525-mile strip of rugged coastline and interior waterways.

Tlingit peoples have stewarded their traditional homelands of Jilkáat Kwáan (and the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve) since time immemorial; Southeast Alaska has benefited from this stewardship, both economically and environmentally, since the creation of the critical habitat area for Chilkat Bald Eagles within the Preserve in 1982. The Advisory Council has provided a collaborative and functioning process for the local governance of this area, including a way for tribes to share knowledge and history of this place with everyone who is responsible for its future.

Perhaps you heard some of my comments in the Capitol earlier this week related to the importance of ensuring adequate representation of Alaska Native peoples in as many seats on boards and commissions as possible. The Advisory Council is an effective way to ensure Tribal voices – the voices of our sovereign governments, are included in the decisions that impact our traditional lands and waters. The governor's Executive Order will consolidate power under one agency in the State of Alaska and could relinquish the ability for Tribal governments to have a meaningful role in the process.

**On behalf of Tlingit & Haida, I ask the Alaska State Legislature to reject Executive Order 132 by passing a Special Concurrent Resolution that will protect the integrity of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council – now and into the future.**

Gunalchéesh, Hág'aa, thank you for supporting Alaska Tribes.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson  
President



**HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA**  
P.O. BOX 1209  
HAINES, AK 99827  
(907) 766-6400 \* FAX (907) 766-2716

Feb. 2, 2024

Senators:

The Haines Borough is unified in opposition to Governor Michael Dunleavy's executive action that would eliminate the advisory council of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

For 40 years, the council has worked well for our community, allowing us to hash out preserve management questions and issues using local expertise, then forwarding our resulting recommendations to state managers for a final decision.

The council system, in this way, saves the State of Alaska money and time that would otherwise be spent by state staffers in Juneau, trying to acquire information and perspectives from various individuals in our borough previous to decision-making.

Further, the creation of the preserve and its 12-member advisory council 40 years ago resulted from a hard-fought, multi-partnered agreement that struck a balance between traditional uses of this 48,000 acres of eagle habitat and the necessary protection of the world's largest gathering of eagles.

That balance remains to this day largely due to the cooperative, goodwill efforts of government officials and public users represented on the advisory council.

For these reasons, the borough requests a special concurrent resolution on this matter and a vote on this executive order (#132) in a joint session of the Alaska Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Morphet  
Haines Borough Mayor

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Linda Kruger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:06 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Executive Order 132

Honorable Members of the Resources Committee,

I was the Lead Park Ranger in Haines from 1977-1983 and I was in the room when language for the bill that created the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was developed. It was an endeavor that brought all factions together to solve the deadlock over logging in the Chilkat Valley. The key to the agreement was the inclusion of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Council. Without the establishment of the Council the federal government, miners, loggers, fishermen, hunters, local, state and regional environmental groups, and Chilkat and Chilkoot people would not have reached agreement on establishing the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve and the Haines State Forest, enabling logging to recommence and loggers and mill workers to go back to work in the Chilkat Valley. It was an awesome accomplishment. After I moved to Juneau as SE Regional Manager for Alaska State Parks I continued to fly to Haines for monthly Advisory Board meetings. Each member took their role seriously and played a part in ensuring fair, effective and environmentally responsible management of the Preserve.

I never imagined that a Governor would try to dismantle something that was a promise, a contract with the people, for how the land would be managed.

My hope is that the Legislature will protect the intent of the original legislation that was built on broad community engagement and trust.

Sincerely,

Juneau, AK

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Doug etre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:10 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** EO 132

Reject EO 132!  
Do not dissolve the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.  
Do not support Governor Dunleavy's mission of stifling public input.

Doug Hill  
[REDACTED]

Palmer, Alaska. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Linda Shaw [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Stop Executive Order 132

*Alaska Legislatures,*

*I am writing to ask you to oppose Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132 that would eliminate the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is an absolute treasure of Alaska that is known well beyond the State. The Advisory Council provides local and Indigenous knowledge and expertise that is essential to managing this complex place.*

*The Legislature itself established the Advisory Council to provide key input on policy and management decisions.*

*As a photographer, the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is incredibly important to me for its unique and special opportunities to photograph and simply enjoy our nation's symbol, and I would like to see my values treated with the same seriousness as other natural resource interests in Alaska. The Advisory Council is important to maintain because it gives a voice to the community of Haines, the Jilkaat Aani and the Chilkat Valley in sustainably managing their environment and economy in this incredible place.*

*Please oppose Executive Order 132 and support the community of Haines and the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve by keeping intact the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.*

*Thank you for considering my comments.*

*Linda Shaw*

*Juneau, Alaska*

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** jeff budd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 6:17 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

Dear Legislators, What a bunch of hooey. Please don't allow this to happen, all the Executive orders are taking away from the citizens of Alaska. Please stand up for the people of Alaska who care about their communities. Thank you. Jeff Budd

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Jeff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 6:29 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Please reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Council

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

Please reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Council.

*The Advisory Council provides deep local and Indigenous knowledge and expertise that is essential to managing this complex place.*

*The Legislature itself established the Advisory Council to provide key input on policy and management decisions.*

*Rather than issuing sweeping Executive Orders, the Governor should submit proposed legislation to the Legislature.*

Thanks, Jeff Sloss

[REDACTED] Juneau, AK [REDACTED]

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Jill Wittenbrader [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 7:02 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** EO 132

Hello Resource Committee Members

Please reject EO 132. Advisory Councils, like the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council, play a vital role in ensuring well-informed and balanced management of key areas.

The Alaska Legislature established the Preserve and set up the Advisory Council as a policy advisory body to ensure deep Indigenous and local knowledge would inform its management. It includes the chairs of the Chilkat Indian Village and the Chilkoot Indian Association, the Mayor of Haines, another Assembly member, and an Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee member, among others, who sit alongside members from the Division of State Parks, the Division of Forestry, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The 12-member council is charged with assisting in the development and monitoring of the management plan. Because of the unique attributes of the area, state law requires the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game to consult with the council before adopting regulations affecting traditional uses, fish and game management, and public use and protection of the Preserve.

The Chilkat Preserve Advisory Council is a valuable advisory body for an amazing natural treasure of our great state.

Thank you for your attention.  
Jill Wittenbrader  
Kodiak, AK

Sent from my iPad

**Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Greg Cook [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 7:06 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** EO 132

Hi--  
EO 132 is a rotten idea.  
Keep the Advisory Council, please.  
Thank you

--  
Greg Cook  
Active Recreational Consultant  
Vadrouilles, batifolages, frasques et fredaines  
[REDACTED]  
Douglas, ALASKA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Doug Hill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 7:46 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Re: EO 132

And EO 126 and EO 134?  
Taking the public out of the conversation mining?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 31, 2024, at 6:13 PM, Doug Hill [REDACTED] wrote:  
>  
> Saying yes to Klukwan mine?  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone  
>  
>> On Jan 31, 2024, at 5:13 PM, Doug Hill [REDACTED] wrote:  
>>  
>> Reject EO 132!  
>> Do not dissolve the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.  
>> Do not support Governor Dunleavy's mission of stifling public input.  
>> I thought he was the say yes man. The yes man that says yes to taking the public out of the process?  
>>  
>> Doug Hill  
>> [REDACTED]  
>> Palmer, Alaska. [REDACTED] Sent from my iPhone  
>>  
>> Sent from my iPhone

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Christine Lundstedt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:07 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

It is of very great importance to absolutely keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council on the job! Their work is critical to keeping the Bald Eagle Preserve that is a unique treasure of our wonderful state viable and healthy!

There is absolutely nothing that can substitute for or remotely approximate the excellent insights and hard knowledge the advisory council brings to protecting and enhancing this magnificent icon of our states' and our entire nations' very identity.

I am a voter and will be watching the status of the advisory council very carefully.

Christine Lundstedt  
Baranof Warm Springs  
Southeast Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Jai Crapella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Reject EO 132 regarding the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

Hello,

I am writing to express support for the Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Council to **ask that EO 132 be rejected.**

The Legislature itself established the Advisory Council to provide key input on policy and management decisions.

I have been to the Preserve many times and it is a treasure to be preserved at all costs. It's a complex ecosystem that needs the deep knowledge and expertise that the Council brings.

Reject EO 132

Sincerely,  
Jai Crapella

[REDACTED]  
Gustavus, AK [REDACTED]

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Ellen Larson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

To: Senate Resources  
From: Ellen Larson  
Date: Jan 31, 2024  
Subject: Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

%  
I stand in total opposition to Executive Order 132 which eliminates the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and transfers the management to the ANDR.%

%  
The advisory council provides the local knowledge, expertise, and accountability that is needed.%  
I oppose any action that would take away the rights of local authority to continue to manage the Preserve, which they have been doing successfully for over 40 years.%

%  
%  
Sincerely,%  
%

Ellen Larson%  
Haines, Alaska%

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Christine Lundstedt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

It is of very great importance to absolutely keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council on the job! Their work is critical to keeping the Bald Eagle Preserve that is a unique treasure of our wonderful state viable and healthy! There is absolutely nothing that can substitute for or remotely approximate the excellent insights and hard knowledge the advisory council brings to protecting and enhancing this magnificent icon of our states' and our entire nations' very identity. I am a voter and will be watching the status of the advisory council very carefully.

Christine Lundstedt  
Baranof Warm Springs  
Southeast Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Christine Lundstedt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

It is of very great importance to absolutely keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council on the job! Their work is critical to keeping the Bald Eagle Preserve that is a unique treasure of our wonderful state viable and healthy! There is absolutely nothing that can substitute for or remotely approximate the excellent insights and hard knowledge the advisory council brings to protecting and enhancing this magnificent icon of our states' and our entire nations' very identity. I am a voter and will be watching the status of the advisory council very carefully.

Christine Lundstedt  
Baranof Warm Springs  
Southeast Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Leanne Converse [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:59 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Please Overturn EO 132

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please overturn Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132. It doesn't serve the needs of the State, its people, or the needs of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Advisory Council is our local voice.

We need people on the ground here that know the preserve and its use and history. It's like people from the Interior trying to understand the ferry service .. It just doesn't work well.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,  
E Leanne Converse

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Luann McVey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Reject EO 32 & Affirm the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

Dear Chairman Bishop, Vice Chair Giessel, Senator Kaufman, Senator Wielechowski, Senator Kawasaki, Senator Dunbar, and Senator Claman,

I'm writing to ask you to reject Governor Dunleaavy's proposed Executive Order 32 and to affirm the necessary role of the existing Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

When my now-33-year-old daughter was in fourth grade, I accompanied her class to Haines in the middle of winter, to complete a unit on Alaskan birds, featuring the incredible eagle congregations found on the Chilkat Valley Bald Eagle Preserve outside Haines. Although I grew up in Juneau, I had never seen this amazing event in real life. I was astounded to see the great numbers of birds, oblivious to the human onlookers, which included some very excited young people. This field trip left a lasting impression on me - the wonder of a late run of salmon, made possible due to warm springs feeding into the Chilkat River!

In addition to time spent viewing the eagles on the preserve, we learned about the people who subsisted on this special subgroup of salmon when we visited the local museum. The fourth graders and their entourage all expanded our understanding as a result of this extraordinary field trip and for that I am grateful.

I was not aware at the time that a 12-member board advises the Departments of Fish & Game and also Natural Resources, regarding human activities on the Preserve, or that this board includes the chairs of the Chilkat Indian Village and the Chilkoot Indian Association, the mayor of Haines and an additional Assembly member, and a representative of the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Such expertise working alongside the two regulatory bodies (ADF&G and DNR) ensures the ongoing protection of indigenous cultural use as well as the continued well-being of such a unique ecosystem.

Honorable Senators, considering the interdisciplinary makeup of this advisory board, there is no need for a Governor's Executive Order to take over the management of this very precious part of Southeast Alaska. The existing advisory board has it covered. Please deny the governor his attempt to control this sacred place.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey, Retired Alaskan Teacher

[REDACTED]  
Douglas, Alaska. [REDACTED]

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Rene Morrissey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Reject EO 132

Please please please REJECT EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council! It is a functioning council and it has served the Bald Eagle Preserve well.

Sincerely,  
Rene Morrissey  
Haines, Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** shelley stallings [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:33 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

To: Senate Resources Committee,

As a former resident of Haines, Alaska, now living in Ketchikan, I can say the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council has done an excellent job of assisting in the management of this remarkable treasure in the Chilkat Valley. The eagle preserve has been threatened multiple times over the last 35 years and this group has always worked hard to make sure local voices have a say in the management of this unique place. People from all over the world flock to see 3,000 or more eagles gather along the banks of the Chilkat River to feast on the last wild salmon run of the year in Alaska. Food is readily available for this mass of majestic birds with this late run of chum salmon, well into January some years.

The State of Alaska could do no better, in fact, some fear would do worse, managing this preserve. The eagles in Haines brings hundreds of thousands of dollars into this small community and the loss of that would be a huge economic blow.

I ask you to keep the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council in place, there is absolutely no reason to disband it and many reasons to keep it.

Shelley Stallings in Ketchikan, Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Mark Kistler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:36 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Please Reject Executive Order 132

Please vote to reject Executive Order 132. I believe it is vital that there is a Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.  
Thank you for your vote, Mark Kistler Haines,AK Sent from my iPad

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Rob Goldberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 11:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Cc:** Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan; [representative.andi.story@akleg.org](mailto:representative.andi.story@akleg.org)  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

Dear Legislators,

I strongly oppose the Governor's edict abolishing the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. Local voices result in better management of the Preserve. I am a subsistence fisherman in the Preserve. Every summer I am out on the Chilkat River with my little net, trying to catch enough salmon to feed my family for the year. The Preserve is important to me and my family.

Turning over management of the Preserve to DNR without any input from Haines residents is a slap in the face to this community. The possibility that DNR will give the Preserve over to mining and logging interests is real. We have seen how the Dunleavy administration have managed our local state parks, closing Port Chilkoot park to camping, and eliminating all paid maintenance staff at Chilkoot, Chilkat, and the Bald Eagle Preserve. My friend Bill Pearson, a 70 year old volunteer, was told to do maintenance tasks that had formerly been done by three paid employees. Bill did the best he could, but shame on DNR for dumping this workload on a retiree. Parks and Preserves are apparently not a priority for DNR.

Please re-establish the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Rob Goldberg

Haines

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Ed Hays [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:25 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Please Overturn EO 132

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please overturn Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132. It doesn't serve the needs of the State, its people, or the needs of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Advisory Council is our local voice.

I moved to Haines and the Chilkat Valley in 1980. The Bald Eagle Preserve has protected the resources of the area since I arrived and I want to see that protection continued.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Edward Hays

[REDACTED]  
Haines, AK [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Libby Roderick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:06 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Reject EO 132

Please reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. This entity is able to work things out that the state therefore does not need to handle. It serves an invaluable purpose.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Roderick  
Anchorage, Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** K. Murphy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:06 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald eagle Preserve

Mr./Madam Chair,

I am writing you today to ask that you reject Executive Order 132. The Bald Eagle Council plays an important role in the management of this healthy Eagle Preserve.

We know that Alaska State Parks has difficulty managing this preserve and relies on the council for advice. If the Governor wants to disband the council in order to reduce opposition to his proposed mining operation above the Preserve he should introduce legislation.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

K. Murphy  
Juneau, AK.

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Deb Kemp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Please Overturn EO 132

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please overturn Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132. It doesn't serve the needs of the State, its people, or the needs of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Advisory Council is our local voice.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,  
Debra Kemp  
Haines, AK

Sent from my iPhone

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** scott visscher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 10:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** advisory boards

Please work to override the governor's overreach. Reinstate the Advisory boards for the AMHS and the Chilkat Eagle Preserve and any other boards that give the local citizens of Alaska some input. Marginalized citizens become outliers and outlaws as they feel shunted aside by the State.

Thankyou, Scott Visscher, Haines resident

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Carol race [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 10:33 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

Reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

The Alaska Legislature established the Preserve and set up the Advisory Council as a policy advisory body to ensure deep Indigenous and local knowledge would inform its management.

The Preserve was established in 1982 "to protect and perpetuate one of the world's largest concentration of Bald Eagles and their critical habitat," according to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. "Virtually every portion of the preserve is used by eagles at some time during the year."

It's unlike any other place in the world and the 'council grounds' where the eagles gather exist in a delicate balance.

Thank you,

Carol Race

Juneau, Alaska [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** BRITA RICE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:18 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Haines Bald Eagle Preserve

Please reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

Respectfully, Brita Rice - Juneau

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Nick Cassara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:20 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

I lived on Chilkat Lake Road, next door the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve for a number of years, when I worked in Haines. I think our Governor is way of the mark...If he was a man of integrity he would work to make the Preserve a World Heritage Site!

Nick Cassara  
Palmer, Alaska

## **Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council**

Dear Local, State, and National Government Representatives,

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council is essential to manage the nation's only Bald Eagle preserve. The Council was carefully and painstakingly created in the late 1970's so that local, state, national and Indigenous voices would all have a stake in managing this priceless treasure. It is a milestone in creating truly representative government by incorporating business, conservation, commercial, subsistence and sport fishing, scientific agency, and other institutional knowledge spanning decades, and in the case of the local tribes, knowledge from centuries of living wisely and responsibly in this area. It represents how democratic government should work, sometimes slow and cumbersome, but the final decisions almost always have broad support and benefit all parties and stakeholders.

Alaska Governor Dunleavy wants, in the name of efficiency, to abolish the Advisory Council and take away a great working model and allow the Preserve to become manipulated by whatever political interest happens to be in power in the state legislature at any given time. (Executive Order 132) The Preserve is known internationally and is an important component of local, state and national economies, with visitors coming from around the world. It would be foolish to try to fix something that is not broken. What the governor should actually do is reinvigorate the preserve by filling seats on the Council that he has irresponsibly left vacant for too long.

Please act in your capacities as representatives of the citizenry to maintain the ACBEP Advisory Council in good working order and to prevent this short-sighted idea of Governor Dunleavy.

Thank you,  
Eric Holle

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Yvonne Granger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** EO 132

Please reject this order.

I am a tour operator and 21 year long resident of the Chilkat Valley. A portion of our livelihood takes place directly on the Chilkat River. Taking away an advisory council overseeing the Preserve is not conducive to protecting the watershed from impacts that would harm it, negatively affecting those that rely on a healthy ecosystem of the Chilkat Valley.

Thank you,  
Yvonne Granger

Sent from my iPhone

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Margo Waring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:22 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle EO

Governor Dunleavy is attempting to have the executive branch be the sole input in decision making about the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Legislature, wisely when establishing the preserve, sought to assure that local knowledge and concerns were part of decision making. The legislature should continue this wise approach by voting down Gov. Dunleavy's attempt to consolidate input and decision making in the state bureaucracy.

Advisory Councils, like the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council, play a vital role in ensuring well-informed and balanced management of key areas.

The Alaska Legislature established the Preserve and set up the Advisory Council as a policy advisory body to ensure deep Indigenous and local knowledge would inform its management. It includes the chairs of the Chilkat Indian Village and the Chilkoot Indian Association, the Mayor of Haines, another Assembly member, and an Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee member, among others, who sit alongside members from the Division of State Parks, the Division of Forestry, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The 12-member council is charged with assisting in the development and monitoring of the management plan. Because of the unique attributes of the area, state law requires the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game to consult with the council before adopting regulations affecting traditional uses, fish and game management, and public use and protection of the Preserve. This is the process which will be protected by rejection of the Governor's Executive Order.

Margo Waring

Juneau, AK [REDACTED]

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Annie Calkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:30 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** KEEP Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

As a 40+ year resident of Southeast Alaska, I fully realize the importance and the precious nature of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. At a time when the climate and the earth itself are in a fragile state the Preserve is a beacon of hope. Hope that we can continue to nurture the eagles who inhabit the Preserve for part of the year. It has been a favorite of many of our visitors over the years, and they go back to their lives in Portugal or Mexico, New York or Minnesota, regaling others with stories of the eagles, the river, and the Tlingit people of Klukwan and Haines.

The legislature realized the importance of this Preserve when they established the Advisory Council. It is crucial that the Council continue to monitor the Management Plan, especially as Canadian companies work to establish mines in the region.

The Governor should not be issuing Executive Orders regarding the Preserve. Perhaps he too should go visit it to understand its beauty and its ecological value.

I urge the Senate Resources Committee to do right by the Preserve and continue the Advisory Council, started by the legislature to ensure indigenous, agency and community voices would be heard in managing the Preserve.

Respectfully,  
Annie Calkins  
North Tee Harbor  
Juneau, Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** James Taggart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:34 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** oppose executive order 132

Hello,

I oppose Executive Order 132 to eliminate the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. I believe that decisions for this vital habitat should remain in the surrounding community including the Chilkat Indian Village. The local people have been caretakers of this land and know it best.

Sincerely, James Taggart

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James Taggart  
[REDACTED]

Sitka, AK  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council Honorable Legislators,  
**Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 3:40:48 PM

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I am appalled at the proposal to eliminate the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council ! This proposal, EO 132, is a blatant slap in the face to common sense resource management.

Reject EO 132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council!

Robert Marshall  
Juneau, Ak  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Resources](#)  
**Subject:** EO 132  
**Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:56:32 PM

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**Hello.**

**Thank you for rejecting EO 132.**

**Keep the local Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.**

**Everything begins with local input.**

**Thank you.**

**Nancy Waterman,** [REDACTED]

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** laurie dadourian <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Please Overturn EO 132

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please overturn Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132. Local knowledge is best to serve our state and the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Advisory Council has proven it's worth.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Laurie Dadourian

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Tresham Gregg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:46 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Committee

Please do not let the Governor remove the Advisory Committee made up of concerned and involved citizens dedicated to proper and intelligent management of this crucial wildlife and salmon rearing waterway. The Chilkat River is one of the most important life giving areas in our state, keeping a balance preserved for all of nature and for those who live here and make their living from its resources.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tresham Gregg - life long resident of the Chilkat Valley  
[REDACTED]

Haines, AK 99827

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Laurie Mastrella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Please Overturn EO 132

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please overturn Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132.

There is no substitute for local knowledge. Chilkat Valley residents have the expertise and intimate understanding to best advise on issues affecting the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, and the most at stake. Eliminating local input would be insensitive and foolish.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Mastrella  
[REDACTED]

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Joe Ordonez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:26 PM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Please reject EO 132

I am Joseph Ordonez, resident of Haines, Alaska. I am the author of the book, *Where Eagles Gather, the Story of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, Haines, Alaska*. I have been guiding the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve since 1987. I own a tour company, Rainbow Glacier Adventures, that operates rafting and photography tours in the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is where the Eagle Council Grounds are located. The November convocation of thousands of American Bald Eagles there is one of the most amazing wildlife gatherings in the world. Travelers and photographers come from all over the world to witness the spectacle.

The history of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is one of conflict and compromise. Back in the 1980's, the area where the eagles gather was slated for logging. The proposed logging activity threatened the salmon habitat, and consequently threatened the bald eagles. The conflict intensified, and at one point, there was serious consideration of making the Bald Eagle Council Grounds an extension of Glacier Bay National Park. Logging, mining, recreation, conservation and native groups all had strong and opposing opinions on what should be done. Things got heated in Haines. Governor Jay Hammond told the local people to work out their differences, or he would figure out a solution for them.

The locals were very concerned about the Federal Government moving into the area, and decided upon a compromise- an Eagle Preserve. This was an entirely new concept. Not a State Park- but a Preserve, where large-scale threats (like logging and mining) would be disallowed but traditional activities (like fishing, berry picking, hunting and recreational uses) would be allowed.

With the new entity of an "eagle preserve," there were bound to be issues that would require additional research and discussion. And the locals insisted that they did not want to be left out. After all, they had worked together to create the preserve, they wanted to have a say in managing the preserve.

Rather than outsourcing all the research and discussion to the Federal Government or the State, one of the core values that the Preserve was founded on was ***including and valuing local input.***

The local input was enshrined with the creation of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Board. This ensured that local stakeholders were involved in decision-making that affected the Preserve.

This Advisory Board has fulfilled its mission for the last forty years, and dealt with a variety of thorny issues. The State Park Ranger is the one who traditionally calls the meeting for the Board. Recently, there has been no State Park Ranger in Haines and the Board failed to meet.

The Governor has stated that eliminating the Advisory Board will increase efficiency. Democracy is not the most efficient method of making decisions. But it is the most fair.

Why eliminate the Advisory Board? Why fear the Advisory Board? The Advisory Board does not cost the State any money. Bringing in local people with a variety of expertise and opinions together to work out the management of public land is not something to be feared.

It is something to be celebrated.

Please reject EO 132.

Thank you.

Joseph Ordonez

Author, *Where Eagles Gather, the Story of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, Haines, Alaska*

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**Joe Ordonez**

Rainbow Glacier Adventures LLC

Haines, Alaska 99827

[REDACTED]

[www.tourhaines.com](http://www.tourhaines.com)

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** Cecily Stern <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 8:39 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Re: Executive Order 132

Honorable Alaska State Senators,

I request that the Senate pass a resolution overturning EO 132. Please retain the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council (AC).

The Eagle Preserve is not a park. It is a preserve created for a very specific purpose. The Preserve AC is made up of representatives of entities with interests in the Preserve - interests that DNR does not otherwise represent. This is quite different from a citizen board to provide input on uses of a park.

The Preserve AC advises DNR on important issues, including eagles, fish, wildlife, water quality, subsistence, and other areas mandated explicitly for protection in the Preserve. The Preserve AC assists the State in making its decisions, provides representation of vested and legal interests and helps to ensure a fully informed State agency by contributing local experience and knowledge.

Preserve-related issues, sometimes the source of great conflict, can be worked out between user groups at AC meetings. Resolving these questions locally means less need for state involvement, and forms a basis for governance responsive to local needs and concerns.

EO 132 does not serve the needs of local residents who are dependent on the subsistence and economic resources that the Eagle Preserve provides. The Preserve AC is the only official body that offers seats to the Chilkat Indian Village and the Chilkoot Indian Association to have input on the management of fisheries and subsistence resources in the Preserve.

When our State agencies make important decisions impacting local fish and wildlife, all local users should have access to representation by members of a council who understand their needs.

If EO 132 goes into effect, our valuable community contribution of information would be lost.

**Please retain the Preserve AC through a resolution overturning EO 132.**

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Cecily Stern

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Jane Pascoe <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 9:12 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Eagle Preserve Council

Dear Senators

Please take all efforts to reverse Gov. Dunleavy's order that would abolish the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

I am a Haines resident who fishes, skis, boats, and recreates in the boundaries of the Eagle preserve. Over time this council has helped resolve conflicts between users and uses of the preserve. I would think that by doing this the council saves the State of Alaska considerable costs that the bureaucracy would have to absorb.

The council represents good government. It is local and virtually free to the State.

It has proved itself successful and I see no compelling reason for eliminating it.

Sincerely  
Jane Pascoe

**To: AK Legislators**

**February 1, 2024**

**From: Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee (ULCAC)  
Haines, Alaska 99827**

**Re: Executive Order 132**

**Dear Honorable Alaska State Senators and Representatives,**

**Please accept these comments from the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee regarding Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132 abolishing the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.**

We believe that Executive Order 132 is not in the State's best interests and will significantly impact important local natural resource values in the area, specifically fish and wildlife.

We are concerned that these impacts have not been investigated or assessed and that the timeline for rectifying the Governor's action is short. We request that the Senate and House pass a concurrent resolution overturning EO 132 and, therefore, retain the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council (Preserve AC).

The Alaska Legislature designated the Preserve AC 42 years ago to work with the Division of Parks to develop the management plan for the Preserve and make decisions affecting the management and administration of the Preserve (AS 41.21.620). The Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee has valuable information to contribute to the decision-making process of the Preserve, and our ability to directly provide this information to the Preserve AC would be eliminated if EO 132 is implemented.

The Preserve AC comprises representatives of entities with legal and/or vested interest in the Preserve – interests that DNR does not otherwise represent. Besides a member of the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Preserve AC members include several with significant roles and responsibilities not ordinarily considered by the Division of Parks. These include a representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the Mayor of the Haines Borough; the President of Klukwan, Inc.; the Chair of the Council of the Chilkat Indian Village; the Chair of the Chilkoot Indian Association; a member of the Haines Borough Assembly; the Commissioner of Fish and Game; the Director of the Division of Parks; the Director of the Division of Forestry; a resident of the Haines Borough representing a conservation organization; and a resident of the Haines Borough appointed for the representation of commercial or industrial interests.

The Preserve AC advises DNR on issues where the Division of Parks has no jurisdiction, staff, or expertise, including fish, wildlife, eagles, water quality, subsistence, and other

areas mandated explicitly for protection in the Preserve. The Preserve AC's purpose is to assist the State in making its decisions and ensure representation of vested and legal interests. The Preserve AC exists to ensure a fully informed State agency.

The Legislature established the Preserve AC to preclude the conflicts that divided Haines for many years prior to the passage of the statutes governing the Preserve. The Preserve AC provides a crucial formal meeting space for Preserve-related issues to be worked out between user groups, resulting in less need for State involvement and oversight. When local problems can be solved locally, it provides for efficient, transparent, responsive, and appropriate governance.

The Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee is concerned that the loss of the Preserve AC will deprive the Preserve managers of the local expertise and guidance provided by volunteers serving on the AC. Such local knowledge cannot be replaced by DNR acting from a distance to manage the Preserve.

The Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee finds that EO 132 does not serve the needs of local residents who are dependent upon the subsistence and economic resources that the Eagle Preserve provides. The resources being impacted by EO 132 are very important to the people of Haines, Klukwan, and the Chilkat and Klehini Valleys. More than 91% of local families utilize subsistence foods. Hunting, fishing, and spending time on the water and the land are the basis of local culture. Local fish and wildlife users deserve to be consulted whenever our State agencies make important decisions.

Removing the Preserve AC removes the generations of wisdom, knowledge, and commitment to resource sustainability provided by those local AC voices. The local economy, more broadly, has become dependent on the Preserve, making the voices of the Preserve AC crucial for responsible economic development within and around the Preserve.

The Preserve AC provides local people the means to work with the Division of Parks on questions relating to the Preserve resources for food security and the economy. Traditionally the Preserve AC meets locally, is chaired by the Haines Borough Mayor, and is open to the public. It provides an important forum for public input. If EO 132 goes into effect, this effective community voice would be lost.

**The Preserve AC is our local voice. Please retain the Preserve AC through a concurrent resolution overturning EO 132.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.  
Sincerely,

Tim McDonough, Chair Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee

## Anne Rittgers

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**From:** john sonin [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 10:03 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** Maintain the Chilkat Eagle Preserve thru Democracy and reject Executive Order 132

It's not surprising to witness so many republican politicians who've been capitulating to this heinous MAGA destruction of democracy; this, inherently emanating from the far-right, pretentious, fraudulent autocrats who've captured our GOP, and Dunleavy is a kingpin in this destruction! His power-"grubbing" of everything from our AMHS to *our* children's, book banned, il-liberal education, and now the Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Board has overstepped the guidelines of not just democratic propriety but unreasoned insanity! When my "public serving" AK Legislature (barring any surreptitious deceivers who've sought the Office through nefarious means) refuses to rebuke Executive Order 132, this sought power-grubbing of what has taken 250 years for our Republic to achieve, is downright insurrectionist!

My Alaska Legislature must sustain democracy and repudiate this autocratic 'power-GRUBBING' now! Democracy is our only governing strategy to pursue, and one day achieve, 'health and happiness' through domestic tranquility, for ALL!

John Sonin

Douglas

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Scott Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 11:38 AM  
**To:** Resources  
**Subject:** EO 132

I'm writing today to urge the Legislature to reject EO132 and keep the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council in place.

**Local knowledge and local voices are essential to the management of this special place. The governor's Executive order would remove local control and put the management of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in the hands of bureaucrats with less knowledge and no ties to this place.**

Seems like a naked power grab by the executive branch to me.

Thank you for your attention.

Scott Miller  
Homer, Alaska

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** Weishahn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 11:45 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Please Overturn EO 132

Dear Honorable Senators,

I have lived in the Chilkat Valley for 43 years and enjoy everything that the Eagle Preserve provides. The Advisory Council is an integral part of the management of the preserve and needs to be maintained.

Please overturn Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order 132. It doesn't serve the needs of the State, its people, or the needs of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Advisory Council is our local voice.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Weishahn

## **Anne Rittgers**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 12:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Bald Eagle Preserve

February 2, 2024

Hello:

I am OK with the Governors' change to the Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. The current council has not met for many years and is essentially nonextant.

Richard Clement  
Haines, Alaska  
[REDACTED]

My name is Peter Goll. I was the state representative for Haines and Klukwan from 1983 – 1991. Before my election in 1982, I was consulted during development of the Haines State Forest and Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve legislation by Governor Hammond and Senator Bill Ray.

As a legislator I worked with Governor Sheffield and Commissioner Wunnicke as they developed the first management plans for the State Forest and Bald Eagle Preserve. For eight years, I followed their management as a Legislator, and then privately thereafter.

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I believe the deletion of the Advisory Council exceeds the authority of the Executive Branch, and would create additional management costs, reduce efficiency and responsiveness of State government, and will conflict with clear legislative intent.

Executive Order 132 is not a reorganization of the administrative functions of the Division of Parks.

It is the elimination of an independent legislatively-created advisory body with a specific set of statutory purposes defined by law.

EO 132 will reduce administrative efficiency by increasing DNR's research burden, and significantly increase agency and municipal costs whenever a controversial issue arises in the Preserve.

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Issues do arise in the Preserve; and many have been resolved each year by the Council for the cost of a teleconference at most. This compares well to the years before adoption of the statute, when disputes related to State land management cost the State and local governments many hundreds of thousands of dollars, and destroyed community life for years with months of angry public meetings.

Furthermore, of great importance: Two recognized tribal governments have vested interests in Preserve and its subsistence resources.

*The Council provides the only place at the table for the Chilkat Indian Village - Klukwan and for the tribal government of the Chilkoot people, the Chilkoot Indian Association to formally comment on the course of day to day management. The Act guarantees customary and traditional use protection.*

These tribal governments have significant legal interests in the subsistence resources and activities protected by the Preserve, but are *only consulted officially regarding ongoing management through this committee.*

The same is true of US Fish and Wildlife Service and the *Haines Borough, both with vested responsibilities in the Preserve.* Like the Chilkat Indian Village, the Borough and USFWS may be consulted *when regulations are changed, but have no official standing at other times.*

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Eliminating a Council that ensures a formal role for the tribes and other governmental entities with an interest in this unit, is a passport back to the long and acrimonious disputes of the past. The EO should be rejected.

The inconvenience of having an advisory council is small compared to the time and money saved on issues that - without it - would lead to disputes, months of costly public meetings, and litigation.

State officials who had to address upper Lynn Canal community and resource issues in the late and controversial 1970's can quantify the savings this Council provides compared to managing the political conflicts that disturbed Agency operations in the past. The Governor and Legislature viewed the Council as a cost-saving measure to promote government efficiency and support quality management.

The Preserve bill and its Advisory Council received an extraordinary amount of legislative research, public comment, and line-by-line review from State, Municipal, Tribal and Federal entities, as well attention from industrial, fisheries, subsistence, environmental and other vested interests. It implements clear Legislative intent.

The Advisory Committee's duty is to give formal advice through the Division of Parks, and is an independent advisory entity for the benefit of the state.

The Legislature mandated this avenue for input to ensure successful operation of a Preserve over time, and avoid arbitrary or political policy changes in an area requiring perpetual protection under law.

The advisory committee is a safe and inexpensive resource for the Division to ensure responsive management. It is the only deliberative body that incorporates all relevant legal, vested interests in the Preserve. It works to support the official management tasks of DNR, but does not assume any Division duties.

Committee minutes from 1981 -2 will demonstrate a clear understanding of the need for the Council to ensure successful implementation of the Preserve as a preserve and traditional use area, over time. The Preserve is not a park like other parks. It is a special use area with a dedicated purpose, removed from multiple use and requiring a unique management approach.

Trying to align Preserve management with the practices in other Parks, the stated goal of the Division, is contrary to Legislative intent. The residents of the valley use this area for their sustenance and have been adamant, and the Legislature has understood that the Preserve is a special purpose site to protect certain species and traditional uses, and is not a park in the conventional sense of the word.

I urge you to reject EO 132 in behalf of efficiency, legality and to protect the legitimate state, local, municipal and tribal interests that are represented on the Council.

Regarding the various legal entities involved.

Tribal, local government, state and federal agency consensus through the Council is necessary for the Division of Parks to successfully navigate overlapping jurisdictions and complex, sometimes competing vested interests.

For example, the Preserve is on the State land that surrounds the subsistence-dependent Chilkat village of Klukwan, which is a federal law municipality, not a subdivision of the State or Haines Borough.

The surrounding Preserve however is part of the Haines Borough whose residents depend upon Preserve resources for their economic needs.

The State must also address the protected uses by the Chilkoot people whose tribal government is the Chilkoot Indian Association.

Though the Preserve exists under State law to protect the Bald Eagle, this species is technically under federal management.

The Council is not part of the internal administration of Division of Parks. It is an appointed body of key vested, legal interests in a land unit.

It is a discreet advisory entity created with Legislative forethought and purpose. It serves the State, municipal, Tribal and public interest and is worthy of protection.

Thank you.