

History of the Salmon Creek Dam



The dam was completed in 1914 by the Alaska-Gastineau Mining Co., to provide hydroelectric power. Salmon Creek's average production is now about 30 million kilowatt hours each year. The dam is the world's first true constant-angle arch dam, and is still the largest of its kind.



The creek was originally called "Til'héeni" which means dog (chum) salmon in the Tlingit Indian language.



The original lower trail was replaced with a road in 1984 and used in the construction of the penstock when the Salmon Creek Hydroelectric Project was reconstructed.

Photos: 1912; 1962; 1984

Please be aware of restricted areas and always stay off the penstock.

Enjoy the Trail!

The Salmon Creek Hydroelectric Project is owned and operated by AEL&P. Please read the trail location and description inside.

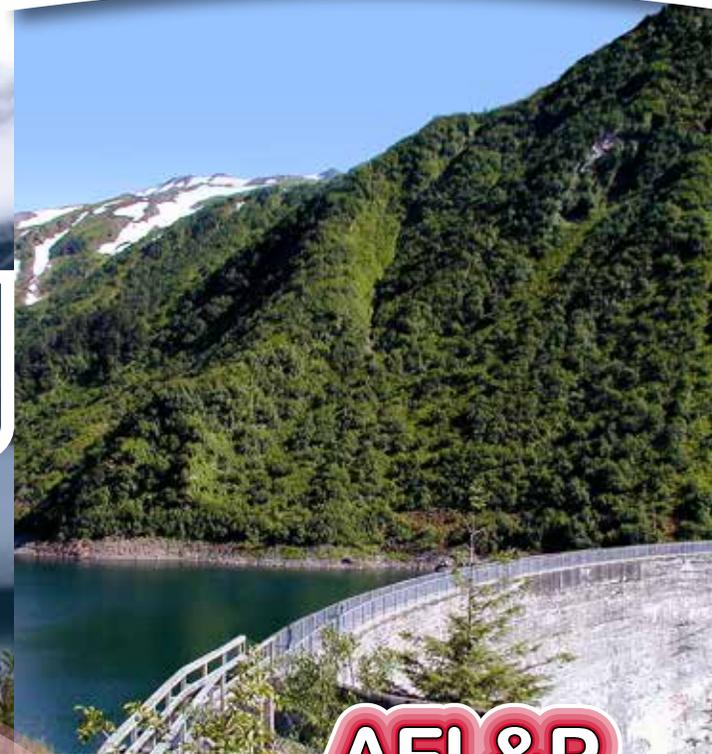
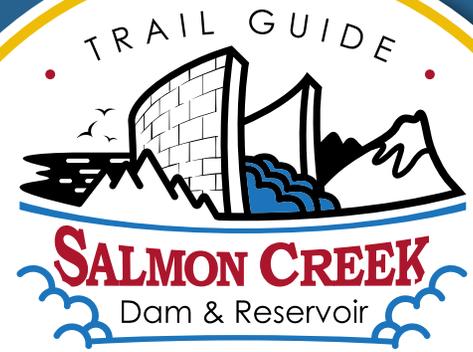
AEL&P inspects and maintains the bridges, railings and stairs along the trail. Public access on the maintenance road and footpath is restricted to foot and bicycle traffic only.

At times the hiking trail approaches **the upper penstock, which is off limits to the public.** At the dam, restricted areas include: **(1)** The old spillway where there is a steep drop-off. This area has a chain link fence and warning signs. **(2)** Access to the crest of the dam is restricted with a chain link fence and warning signs as well.

Do not attempt to access any of the restricted areas along the trail.



Salmon Creek Project Land is administered by **The State of Alaska** and is licensed by the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** Project No. 2307

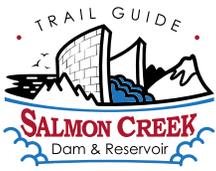


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Salmon Creek Dam & Reservoir Trail

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Please help keep this special place clean. Salmon Creek Reservoir is a source of drinking water for Juneau. Protect our watershed by keeping your dogs and trash out of the reservoir and the adjacent area.



The trail begins as a gentle-sloping gravel road which rolls along for about two miles through an emerald mountain valley. Off to the side, Salmon Creek tumbles its way toward the sea.

Just short of AEL&P's old upper powerhouse, a signpost directs hikers off the road and onto a more traditional Southeast trail. For about a half mile your path will roughly parallel the penstock, catching a glimpse here and there of the huge water conduit. Keep looking up, however, as the face of the dam will peak through the trees as you near its base. The contrast between hemlock green, man-made gray and azure blue is striking. Close to the base, the trail takes a left turn and begins a short, yet steep ascent to the top. The view of the large reservoir, surrounded by towering mountains, is the hiker's reward.

- ▶ **Length:** 3.5 miles, round trip 5-6 hours
Recommended season: Spring, summer and early fall.
- ▶ **Elevation gain:** 1,100 feet
- ▶ **Difficulty:** *Lower Section:* Easy
Upper Section: More difficult, not recommended for small children.
- ▶ **Condition (Lower Section):** Excellent. The road is maintained by AEL&P. **(Upper Section):** Good.
Do not use the penstock, as it is extremely hazardous.
- ▶ **Special Features:** There is fishing for eastern brook trout in the reservoir. During the summer the salmon berries and blueberries are ready to pick and eat.
- ▶ **Access:** When driving north from Juneau, turn right just past the cement abutment at mile 2.5 of Egan Drive. The turnoff is accessed from the north bound lane only and is located after the Salmon Creek Powerhouse. Public admittance is restricted to foot traffic only.

