SOPs, BMPs, and conservation measures to determine and direct work in fish-bearing waters. For example, all equipment to be used for construction activity would be cleaned and inspected before it arrives at the project location to avoid and minimize the potential for fuel or lubricant leaks. As possible, construction equipment would use vegetable-based oils and lubricants. The project would also install native plants around the perimeters of the Pond and islands to improve fish and wildlife habitat. Native plants would be used to restore disturbed areas, where and when appropriate. Five floating habitat islands would also be deployed in the Pond to improve habitat for waterfowl and other animals.

Fish and other aquatic life could be injured or killed by the proposed dredging activity. Such injury or death of fish may be caused by crushing, stranding, turbidity, and/or elevated water temperatures. To avoid and minimize these impacts, the project would rely on fish removal from work areas and the relocation of those organisms to safe areas. The method for doing so is briefly described below.

All in-channel and Pond work would occur during the agency-approved in-water construction window (fish window), generally between July 1 and August 30. Work areas with fish would first be isolated with fish exclusion nets to prevent fish from entering those areas. After the nets are installed, fish would be carefully captured by qualified biologists using WDFW protocols for using capture nets and electro-fishing equipment. Those fish would be carefully removed from the work area and relocated to safe areas outside of the work area.

Forebay dredging using heavy equipment would occur once fish have been removed from that work area and relocated to elsewhere in the Pond (non-salmonids) or downstream areas of Thornton Creek (salmonids). The fish would first be removed using the methods described above. Once the fish were relocated, the work area would be isolated by installing sandbag berms upstream and downstream of the work area and using mechanical pumps to fully "pump and bypass" flows in the mainstem Thornton Creek around the work area. Those flows would be discharged back to the stream channel downstream of the work area through an energy dissipater to minimize turbidity as that water re-enters the streambed.

Sump pumps would be used to continuously dewater the work area as needed during the actual dredging work. That discharge water tends to be small in volume, but turbid. Thus, the discharge water would be directed to an upland location where it can soak into the soil without causing turbidity problems.

During the forebay dredging, soft soils would be protected with wooden pads, steel plates, or other measures to isolate the construction equipment from direct contact with those soils. After the forebay dredging is complete, the upstream berm would be breached to allow a small amount of water to re-enter the work area and suspend loose sediment. This initial water would then be pumped and discharged to a designated upland area. Once the discharge water cleared, both berms would be removed to allow unimpeded flows in the mainstem of Thornton Creek.

Up to 60 trees may be removed by the project. Removed trees may be replaced on a 2-for-1 basis, as may be required by former Mayor Greg Nickels' Executive Order 03-05