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SURVEY OF MASON AND ISSAQUAH CREEKS FROM CEDAR HILLS LANDFILL TO FISH HATCHERY

OBJECTIVE: To determine the effect of leachate from the Cedar Hills Landfill on the aesthetics of Mason Creek and the operation of the fish hatchery on Issaquah Creek. The data will be used to establish waste treatment requirements for leachate at several landfills.

BACKGROUND:

1. During the rainy months, at least two tributary streams to Mason Creek are contaminated by leachate from the Cedar Hills Landfill. Mason Creek abruptly changes at the confluence of the more westerly of these tributaries from a typical pasture land stream to one containing a luxuriant growth of heterotropes. The luxuriant growth of heterotropes ends at the confluence of Mason Creek with Issaquah Creek but the fish hatchery downstream in Issaquah reports that an abnormal growth of heterotropes has been occurring on the egg trays the last few years and appears to be increasing each year.

2. The Department of Ecology, Department of Fisheries and Metro collected samples from these streams last winter.

3. The Department of Fisheries is filing suit against King County but the data is inconclusive.

4. The Department of Ecology has ordered King County to treat the leachate but the effluent requirements are questionable.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

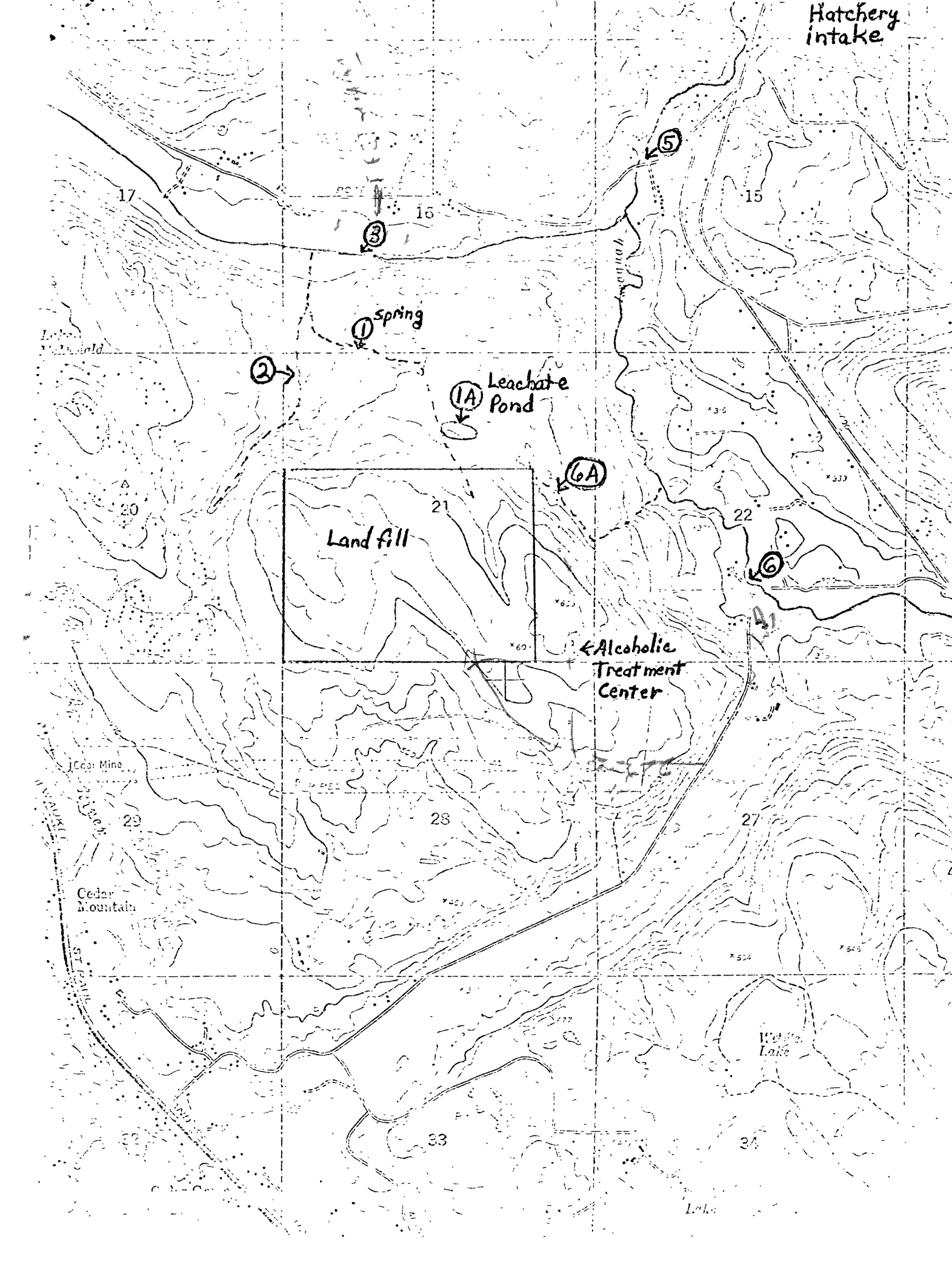
1. Identify the dominant species of heterotropes in Mason Creek and the fish hatchery and determine the nutrient requirements of these heterotropes.

2. Determine the sources of the essential nutrients necessary to support the large population of heterotropes in Mason Creek (livestock, waste, septic garbage, iron, etc.).

TIME SCHEDULE: It is recommended that the survey be started in October before the arrival of the salmon and that samples be taken at least once a month for six months. A final report is required and a monthly data compilation will be needed for public relations and coercion.

TJM/JHG:mk

8-30-72 dd
8-31-72 dt


Hatchery Intake
5
17
16
15
3
spring
1
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1A
Leachate Pond
6A
21
22
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Land fill
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Alcoholic Treatment Center
Coal Mine
29
28
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Cedar Mountain
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