Ashley Noble

Consider using a different method or material than geotextile tubes (geotubes) for habitat island construction. Geotextiles are generally composed of petrochemicals. They do not biodegrade. Rather, as they age they tear apart and are released into the surrounding environment where they may be threaten birds, animals, and aquatic life. Geotextiles inhibit water infiltration and gas exchange in soils. They also prevent decaying matter from infiltrating into the soil, leading to degraded soil conditions. Geotextiles also impede the growth of native plants while increasing the difficulty of removing undesired or invasive plant life. Lastly, geotextiles require significant effort to remove if and when removal is desired. Biodegradable and compostable alternatives to geotextiles exist that can perform the same function as the proposed geotubes without creating further pollution.

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I am unconvinced that creating a berm to prevent flooding of the Tumwater Historical Brewery site is in the best interests of the environment or the public. The Brewery site has been neglected for decades without any apparent attempts at repair or restoration. Preventing natural flooding patterns that serve to renourish soils to protect a derelict, unusable set of buildings, regardless of their history, seems a waste of resources and money.