

**From:** [Thorson, Robyn](#)  
**To:** [Thorson, Robyn](#)  
**Subject:** TRAR brief update/background for Martha  
**Date:** Friday, April 1, 2022 6:43:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [whitepaper628finalpdf.pdf](#)

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*I live and work in the traditional homelands of the Chinook, Clackamas, Cowlitz, Kalapuya, Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah, and Wasco people who have made their homes along the lower Columbia River for thousands of years.*

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**From:** Dexter, Nathan L <nathan\_dexter@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Thorson, Robyn <robyn\_thorson@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Holm, Jason <Jason\_Holm@fws.gov>; Lawrence, Brent A <brent\_lawrence@fws.gov>; Morrison, Hugh R <hugh\_morrison@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: TRAR: brief update/background for Martha

The Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative began among the Tribes of the NW Indian Fisheries Commission in July 2011 with the development of a white paper outlining the issues and offering solutions for the protection of tribal treaty rights and recovery of salmon habitat. The Tribes took their concerns to Washington, D.C. and met with the White House.

One of the key asks was for the federal government to align its agencies and programs and lead a more coordinated salmon recovery effort. Tribes want the United States to take charge of salmon recovery because it has the obligation and authority to ensure both salmon recovery and the protection of tribal treaty rights. The argument is that in failing to protect salmon habitat, the federal government is failing in its trust responsibility to honor its treaties with the tribes. This path, the argument goes, leads to the extinction of both the salmon resource and tribal treaty-reserved rights.

As sovereign nations, the 20 treaty Indian tribes in western Washington signed treaties with the United States in 1855-56, giving up most of the land that is now western Washington, but reserving rights to harvest salmon and other natural resources. The Tribes articulate that for those rights to have meaning there must be salmon to harvest. If salmon are to survive, and if treaty rights are to be honored, there must be real gains in habitat protection and restoration. Habitat is the key to salmon recovery, protection of treaty rights, and ensuring that salmon will be there for future generations.

The situation in 2011 is just as relevant today.

Please find the white paper attached.

**Nathan L. Dexter**

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**From:** Thorson, Robyn <[robyn\\_thorson@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_thorson@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 12:38 PM

**To:** Dexter, Nathan L <[nathan\\_dexter@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_dexter@fws.gov)>

**Cc:** Holm, Jason <[Jason\\_Holm@fws.gov](mailto:Jason_Holm@fws.gov)>; Lawrence, Brent A <[brent\\_lawrence@fws.gov](mailto:brent_lawrence@fws.gov)>; Morrison, Hugh R <[hugh\\_morrison@fws.gov](mailto:hugh_morrison@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** TRAR: brief update/background for Martha

It's timely to bring Martha up to speed on TRAR: what it is/means, roles, key issues.

Do you think you are positioned to draft this (pretty short) email to her? It could have one or two attachments if appropriate (no expectation about that).

Hugh will have a parallel update on Columbia Basin/CRITFC as he continues to cover CRSO+ but the timing for that will be separate for TRAR, which is "current" because of this week's meeting and the increased BIA and AS/IA engagement.

I would like you to take the lead on this, with input from others as you see fit. Let me know.

Thank you.

Robyn

*Robyn Thorson, Regional Director*

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