

# Our River System Supports Jobs



## Many jobs in Whitman County connected to rivers

The Columbia Snake River System directly and indirectly supports many livelihoods on the Palouse. From barge operators and port employees, to farmers and utility workers, the jobs provided by the continued use of our river system are critical to Whitman County's economy.

**In 2017, agricultural exports (primarily wheat) shipped from the Snake River to ocean ports accounted for \$472.7 million in sales and 1,346 direct jobs**, according to a 2020 FCS Group study. Indirect impacts accounted for 2,635 secondary jobs and generated a combined \$205.8 million in annual gross domestic product (GDP).

In total, wheat exports moving through the Snake River generate nearly \$29.3 million in federal tax revenues annually from direct and secondary businesses, according to the study.

**These economic impacts would be lost if the lower Snake River dams were ever decommissioned and breached.**

Breaching would eliminate all or most of the jobs at ports that rely on river navigation. All jobs at the Port of Almoda and about 75 percent of the jobs at Port of Central Ferry would be eliminated. In 2016, these ports together employed 67 people, generated about \$6.4 million in gross regional product and supported \$3.3 million in labor income payroll.



The Port of Whitman County values our port workers, our farmers and all those who work to keep the global supply chain flowing.

**That's why we support a strong and balanced river system.**

To learn more and take action, visit [www.portwhitman.com](http://www.portwhitman.com).