



# PORT GRIDLOCK



Port of Seattle

The CMA-CGM Benjamin Franklin arrives in Elliott Bay and prepares to dock at the Port of Seattle.

## Global shipping crisis snarls ag exports, upping costs and delays



Alexis Jacobson

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
Capital Press

**T**ANGENT, Ore. — As congestion at ocean ports along the West Coast has continued in 2021, Alexis Jacobson has seen her schedule thrown into chaos.

Jacobson is the international sales manager for BOSSCO Trading, a company based in Tangent, Ore., that sells grass straw from farms around the Willamette Valley to customers

in Japan and South Korea. The straw is used as feed for beef and dairy cattle.

Under normal circumstances, Jacobson spends roughly an hour a day working with ocean carriers to ensure their cargo makes it aboard ships bound for Asia.

That was before COVID-19 inflamed a nationwide shipping crisis that has snarled ports, catapulted costs and left agricultural exporters scrambling for options.

“We’re constantly making a plan, and then changing that

plan because of circumstances out of our control,” said Jacobson, who now spends most of her time each day calling audibles whenever a vessel is late, or the booking is canceled. Timetables are constantly in flux, and often change with only a few days’ notice.

### Ag exports impacted

BOSSCO Trading is hardly alone. Just about every Northwest farm exporter — from Oregon hazelnuts to Washington

See Ports, Page 9



BOSSCO Trading

Grass straw is baled for shipping overseas at BOSSCO Trading, which works with approximately 40 farms in the Willamette Valley.

## Survey shows broad support for keeping Snake River dams



Associated Press File

Ice Harbor Dam, one of four dams on the lower Snake River.

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

A new survey commissioned by Northwest RiverPartners indicates broad public support for keeping the Snake River dams.

Less than 30% of respondents favor removing the four dams.

The survey, conducted by DHM Research, an independent and nonpartisan research firm in Portland, reached a total of 1,200 Northwest residents — 400 each in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

According to the survey, 60% of respondents indicate support for “the use of hydroelectric dams on the lower

SNAKE RIVER to produce electricity” while 17% oppose it, and 23% don’t know.

Only 29% of respondents agreed that the dams should be removed to protect wild animals and their habitats. The rest opposed removal or didn’t know, according to the survey, which did not indicate the percentages for other answers.

Asked to rank their top concerns about removing the dams, respondents most often highlighted higher electricity costs, losing a source of carbon-free energy and impacts on agriculture.

About 14% said they had no concerns about the potential removal of the dams.

Kurt Miller, executive director of Northwest RiverPartners, told the Capital Press he wasn’t sure what to expect prior to commissioning the survey.

“I was definitely pleased with the results,” Miller said of the survey. “I was heartened, gratified to see that.”

He pointed to messaging from advocacy groups and media attention surrounding Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson’s proposed plan for dam breaching and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Sen. Patty Murray’s federal-state assessment of salmon recovery, including dam breaching, as reasons for his uncertainty.

See Survey, Page 9

## 2022 Western water outlook promising, but not for everyone

Snow and rainfall improve overall Western water outlook, but severe drought predicted to continue for some regions

By **SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN**  
Capital Press

The Western U.S. could get a much-needed boost to water supplies in 2022, but significant catch-up is still needed to offset the lingering impacts of drought.

According to climatologists, the outlook varies widely by state and watershed.

### Washington

According to state climatologist Nick Bond, snowpack levels across most of Washington are above normal for this time of year.

Data released Dec. 27 via a SNOTEL report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service showed the snow-water equivalent in the Yakima Basin was about 97% of average. Other basins ranged from

See Snow, Page 9



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

December 2021 snowfall in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Wet, snowy a weather offers hope of catching up after a dry year, but there’s a long way to go, experts say.

### IT'S RENEWAL SEASON



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