



Winter Storms in Pacific Northwest Mean Lasting Effects for Rail & Ocean

Although the torrential snow and rainfall that plagued the Pacific Northwest since January has receded, rail and sea freight transport are still catching up with the cargo backup that has resulted from its wake. Several news sources, [including Reuters](#), have noted that the rail delays in the Pacific Northwest have not been alleviated, and caution that shipment movement may be congested through March, [possibly into April](#). Because of this, Asian grain exporters may be forced to switch origin points to Gulf ports, possibly resulting in significantly longer transport times and adversely impacting prices and demurrage fees. [American Shipper also reported](#) that twice the number of vessels along the Columbia and Willamette rivers—two major ports in the Pacific Northwest region—were either anchored or berthing near the seven terminals, although shipment loading is reportedly down by a quarter due to adverse weather.

[In a conversation with AGWeb](#), Soy Transport Coalition's executive director Mike Steenhoek corroborated on these reports—"We're also seeing increases in cars delayed to destination and when you're moving millions of bushels of ag products you depend on timely arrival for storage not to be exhausted."



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