

Importance of Columbia-Snake River Navigation to U.S. Agriculture

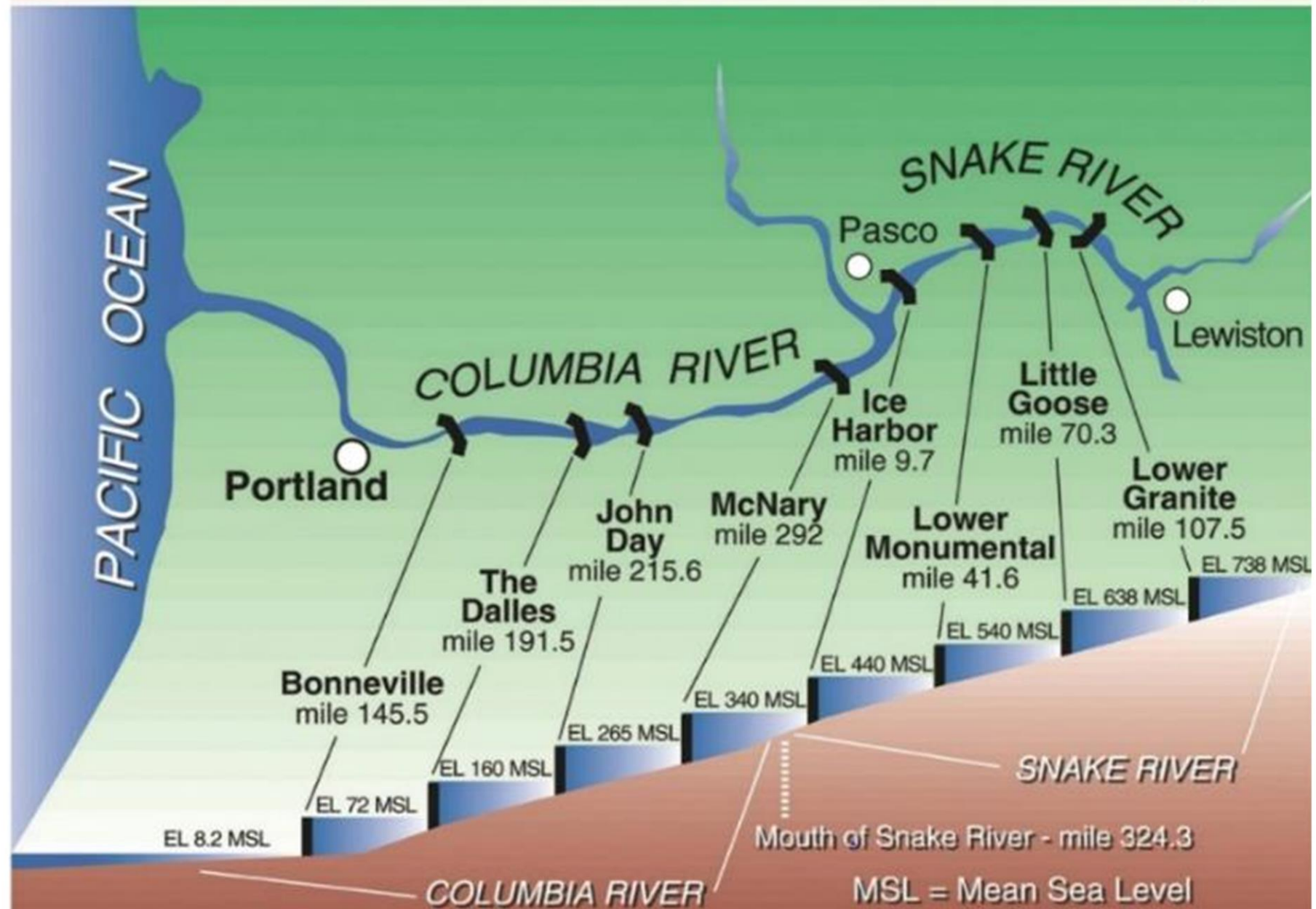
Eric Jessup, Jake Wagner, Riley Higby, Alan Barrett

Washington State University

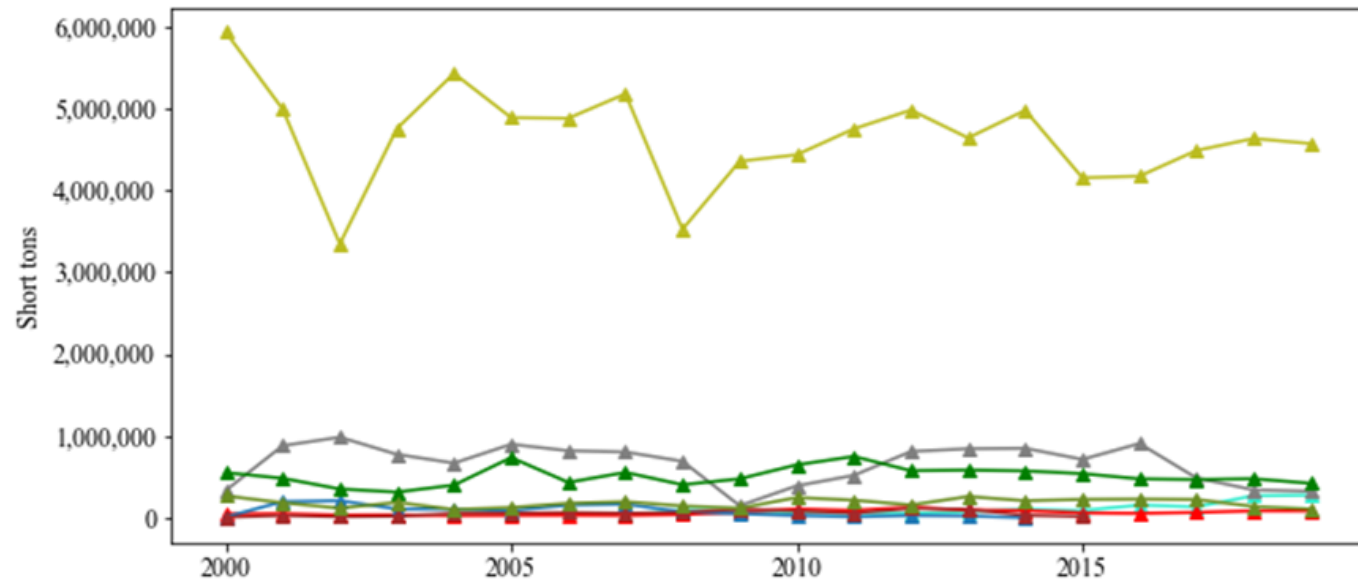
Higby Barrett LLC

This research was supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. The findings and conclusions in this publication are those of the authors and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.

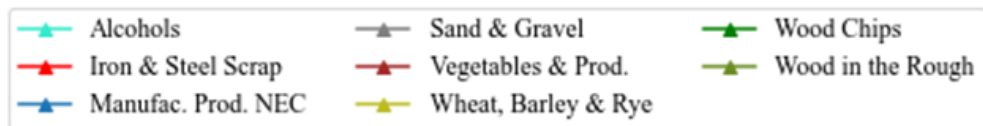
Columbia-Snake River Inland Waterways



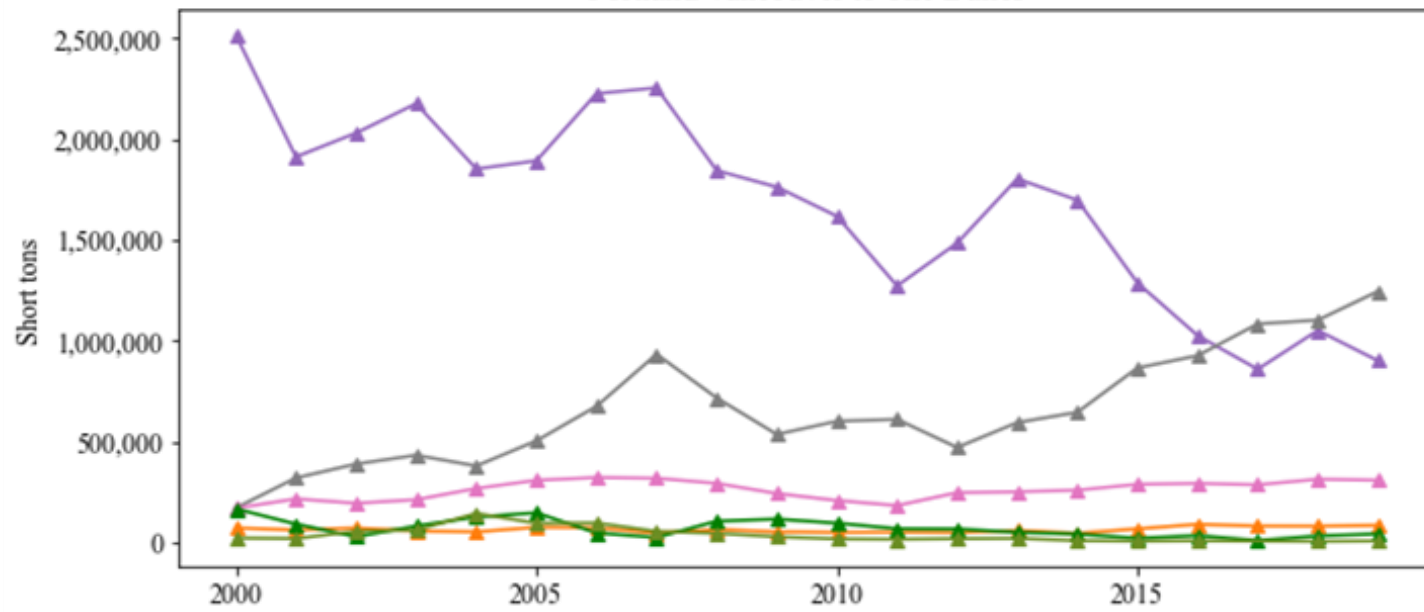
Portland/Vancouver to The Dalles



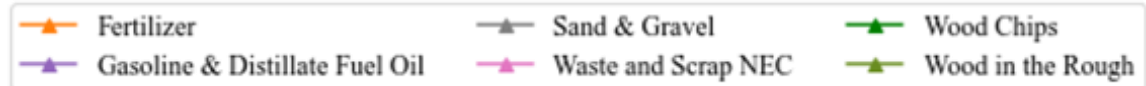
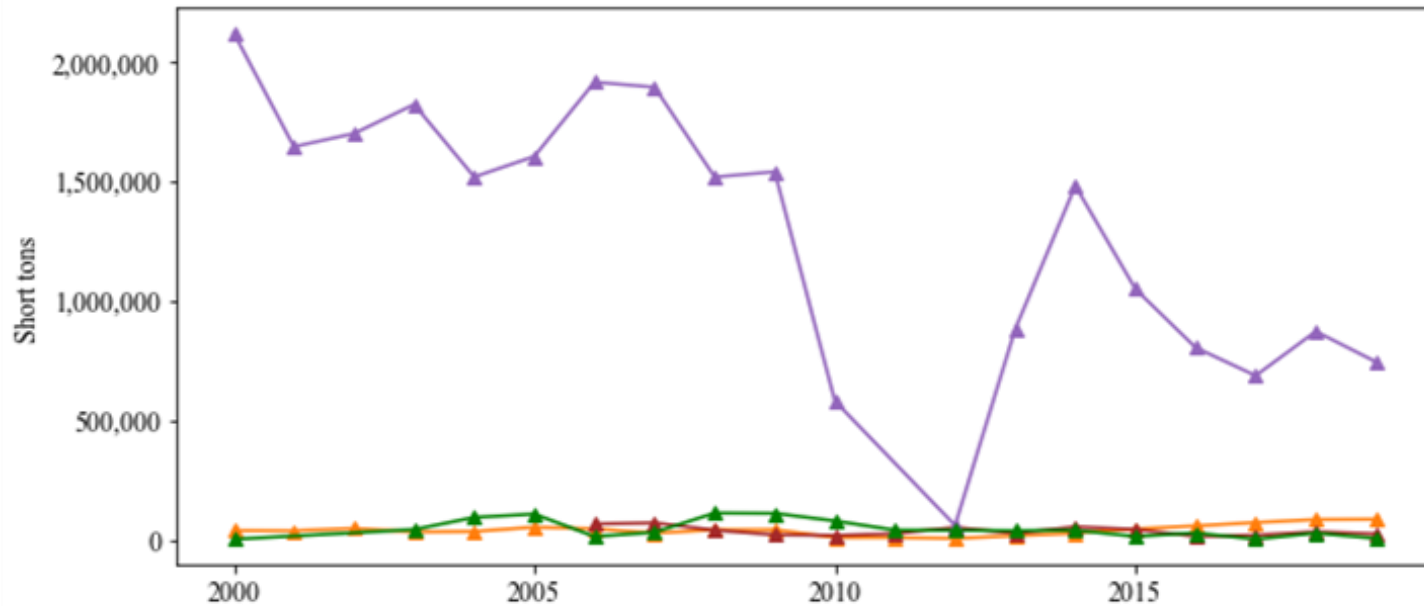
Snake River



Portland/Vancouver to The Dalles



Snake River



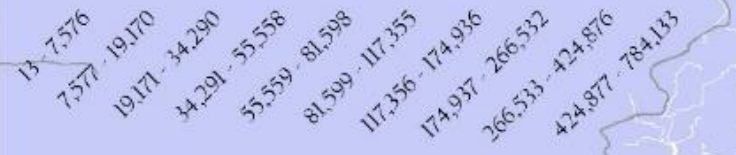
Objective: Evaluate the Importance of Columbia-Snake River Navigation to U.S. Agriculture

- Estimate the value added of Columbia-Snake River navigation
 - Evaluate the impacts of value added under different levels of infrastructure investment
- => Model intermodal freight networks for commodities currently utilizing the river system
- => Shock the model to understand impacts under different levels of infrastructure investment

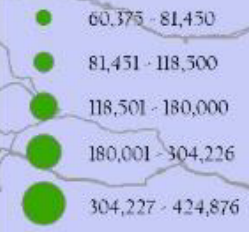
- AOS 1: an improved scenario in which all planned, outstanding, and proposed maintenance projects are completed improving river transportation efficiency and **reducing barge transportation costs by 6%**.
- AOS 2: an unimproved scenario in which planned maintenance projects are deferred resulting in reduced river transportation efficiency and **increasing barge transportation costs by 6%**.
- AOS 3: a degraded scenario in which river maintenance is neglected resulting in a substantial decrease in river transportation efficiency and **increasing barge transportation costs by 12%**.

PNW Rail Lines

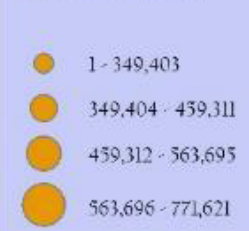
Highway Volumes: Base Scenario (tons)



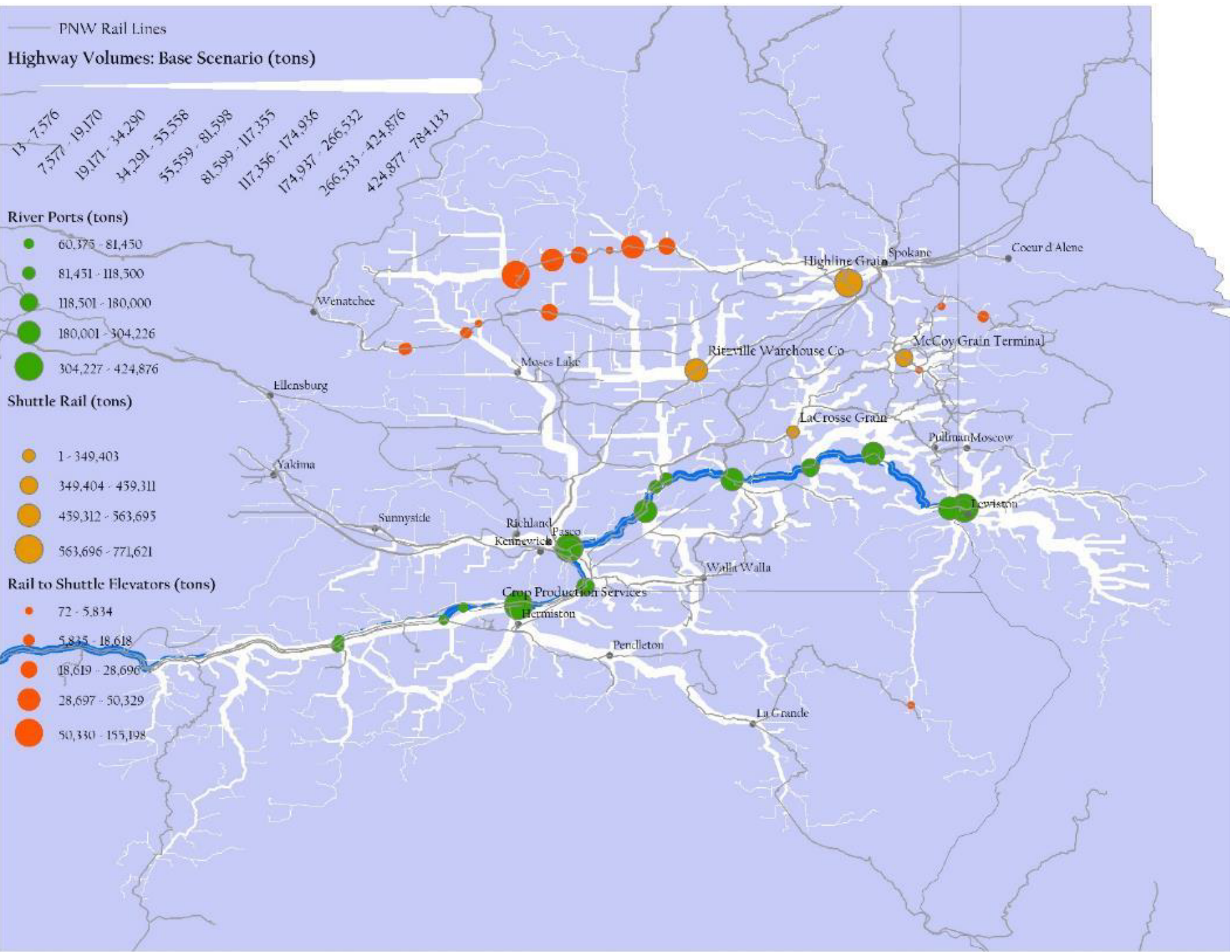
River Ports (tons)



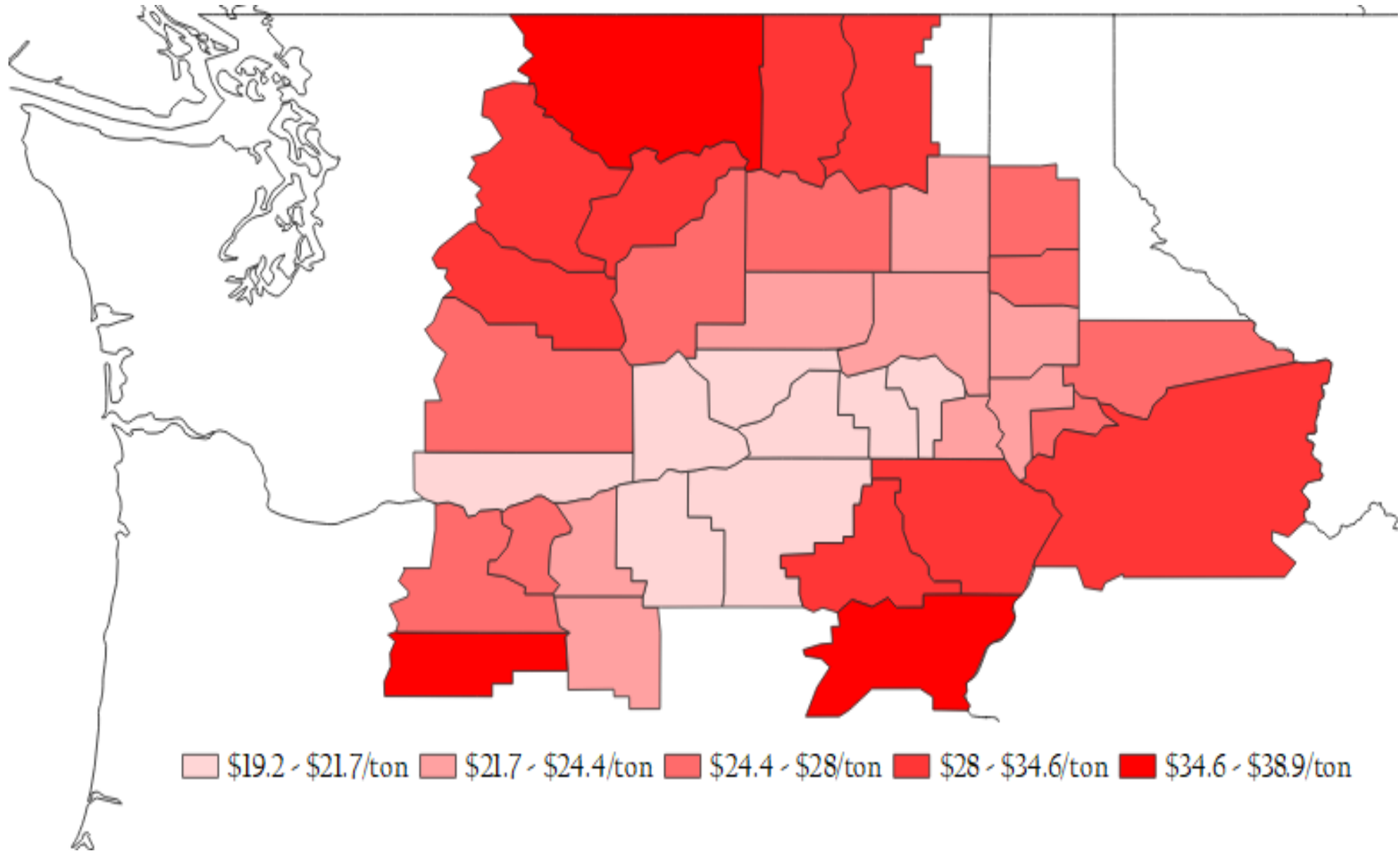
Shuttle Rail (tons)



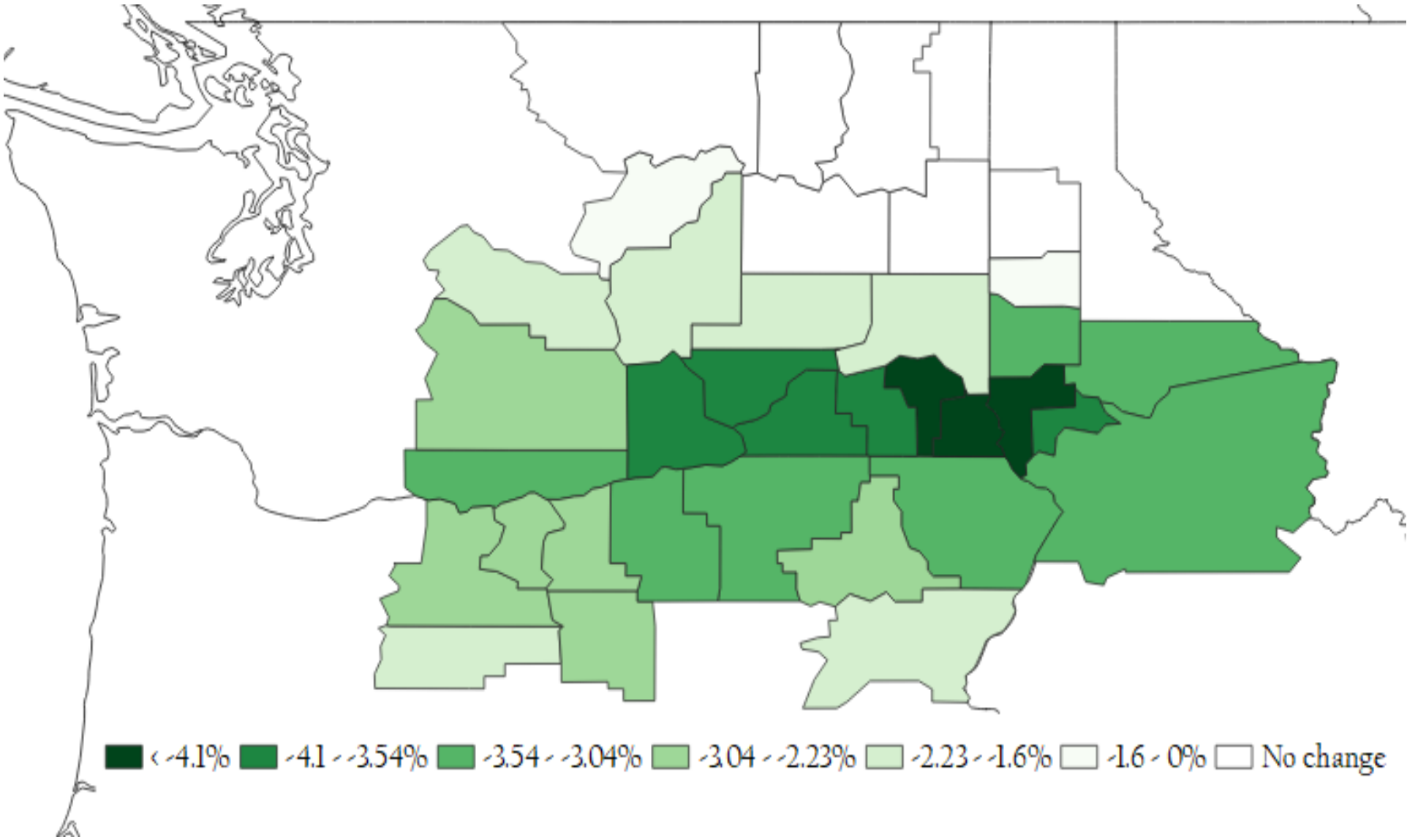
Rail to Shuttle Elevators (tons)



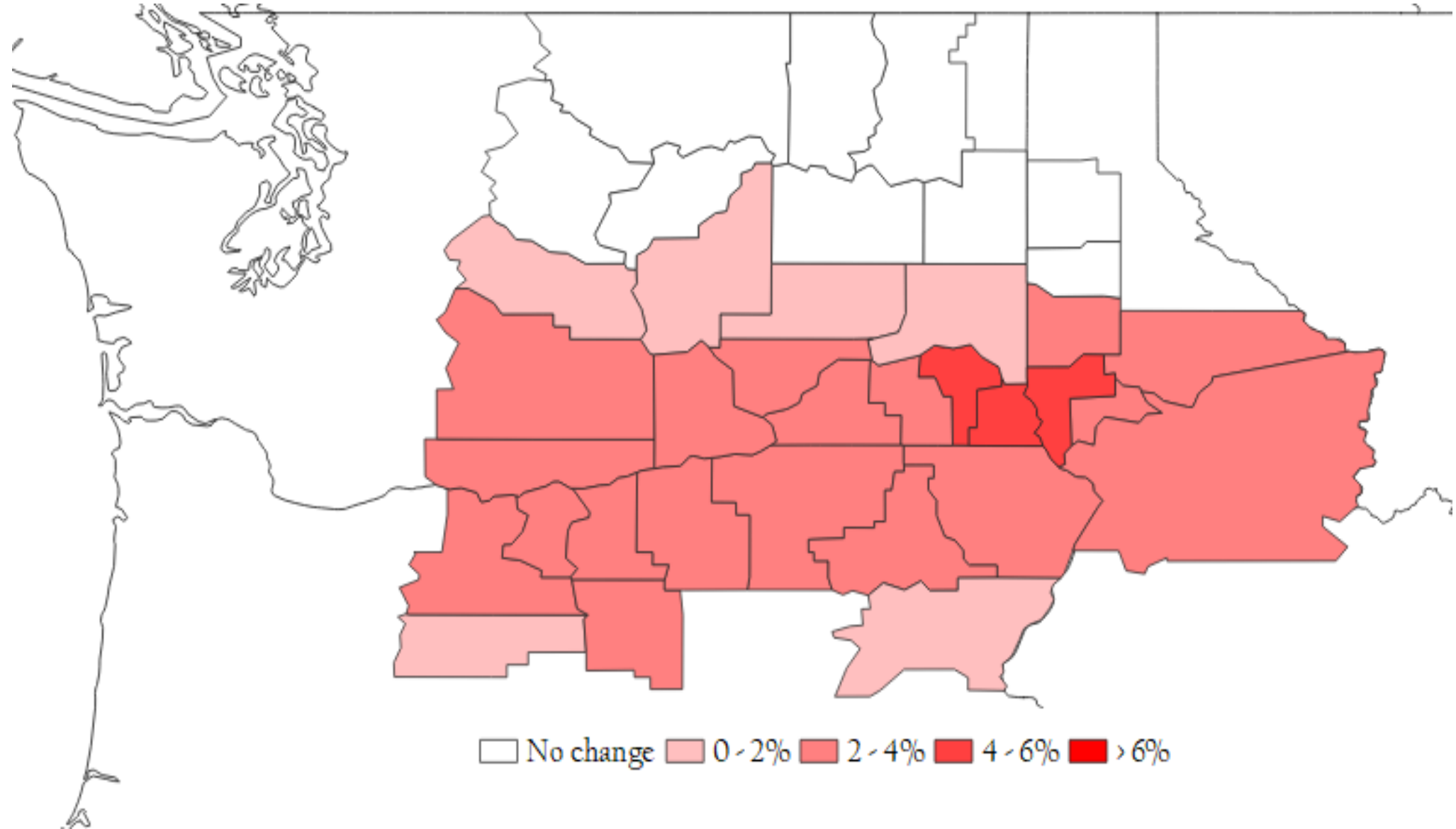
Grain - Baseline Unit Transportation Costs/Ton by County



Grain - Change in Unit Cost/Ton by County Under 6% Decrease in Barge Rates (AOS 1)



Grain - Change in Unit Cost/Ton by County Under 6% Increase in Barge Rates (AOS 2)



	Baseline	AOS 1 (-6%)	AOS 2 (+6%)	AOS 3 (+12%)
Volume (tons)				
Road	6,258,690	0.2%	-0.4%	-0.4%
Barge	3,933,470	2.0%	-2.5%	-7.8%
Rail	398,690	-0.9%	11.5%	24.6%
Shuttle Rail	2,144,030	-3.6%	4.6%	14.2%
Expenditures (\$)				
Road	\$53,327,600	0.3%	-1.2%	-2.4%
Barge	\$52,126,800	-3.9%	3.3%	3.0%
Rail	\$3,193,280	-0.8%	10.8%	22.1%
Shuttle Rail	\$36,258,200	-3.5%	4.6%	14.0%
Total Expenditures	\$144,905,880	-2.2%	2.1%	4.2%

	Baseline	AOS 1 (-6%)	AOS 2 (+6%)	AOS 3 (+12%)
Volume (tons)				
Road	22,966,290	0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Barge	7,060,409	1.3%	-3.6%	-6.9%
Rail	1,462,900	-0.3%	13.4%	17.0%
Shuttle Rail	2,144,030	-3.6%	4.6%	14.2%
Tanker	1,744,710	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pipeline	14,065,800	0.0%	4.2%	4.3%
Expenditures (\$)				
Road	\$181,556,720	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Barge	\$85,012,082	-4.5%	1.6%	2.9%
Rail	\$15,550,880	-0.3%	13.4%	15.7%
Shuttle Rail	\$36,258,200	-3.5%	4.6%	14.0%
Tanker	\$21,601,900	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pipeline	\$96,929,800	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%
Total Expenditures	\$436,909,582	-1.2%	1.1%	2.2%



	Jobs	Value Added
AOS 1	265	\$56,466,223
AOS 2	-83	(\$21,106,961)
AOS 3	-143	(\$35,782,540)

	Grain	Petroleum	Fertilizer	Forest Products	Sand & Gravel
AOS 1	\$10,853,289	\$43,262,524	\$49,208	\$1,030,117	\$1,271,085
AOS 2	(\$11,331,264)	(\$7,401,674)	(\$49,636)	(\$1,040,495)	(\$1,283,891)
AOS 3	(\$22,493,916)	(\$8,555,874)	(\$98,677)	(\$2,074,409)	(\$2,559,663)

- 6% reduction in barge transportation costs is estimated to contribute to an additional \$56 million/year in value-added to the regional economy.
- 6% increase in barge transportation costs is estimated to result in a \$21 million/year reduction in value added for the regional economy.
- 12% increase in barge transportation costs is estimated to result in a \$36 million/year reduction to value-added for the regional economy.
- These economic impacts are heterogeneous across states and industries.

=> How do inland waterway investments impact navigation costs?

=> What is the demand curve for inland waterway freight?

Thanks!