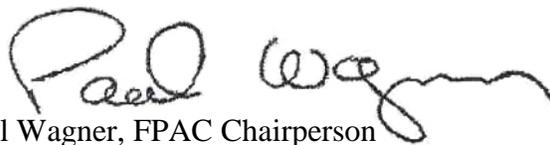


# **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: 2015-1**

## **SEATTLE DISTRICT**

*The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

<b>TO:</b>	Brig. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon	COE-NWD Commander
	Col. John G. Buck	COE-NWS Commander
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	Steven Barton	COE-NWD-PDW Chief
	Rock Peters	COE-NWD-PDD
	Julie Ammann	COE-NWD-PDW-RC
	Doug Baus	COE-NWD-PDW-RC
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	Lorri Bodi	BPA-KE-4
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	Robyn MacKay	BPA-PGB
	Tony Norris	BPA-PGPO-5
	Scott Bettin	BPA- KEWR-4



**FROM:** Paul Wagner, FPAC Chairperson

**DATE:** December 9, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Modification of 2015 Libby End of December Elevation

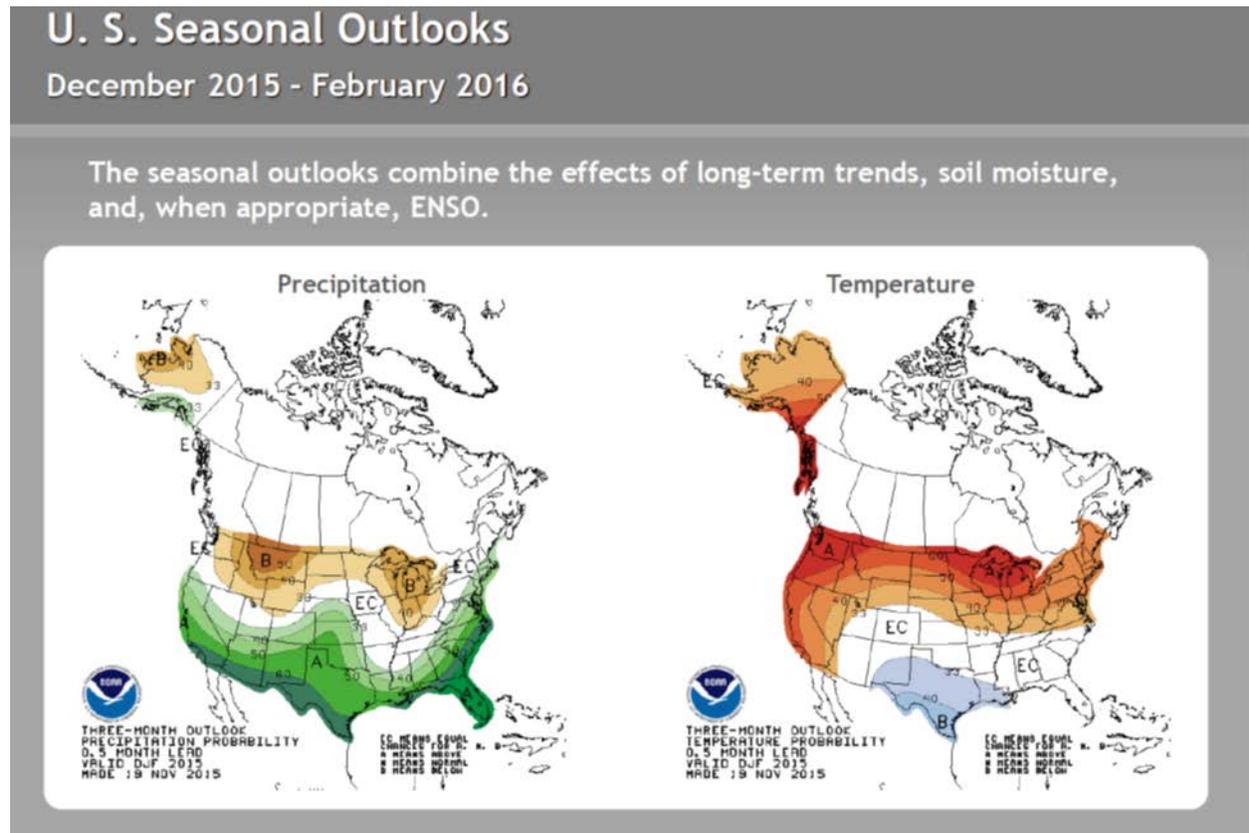
### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

Objective: Limit the draft of Libby during the month of December to increase the probability of achieving the April 10 flood control rule curve.

The Corps is requested to consider targeting a Libby elevation up to 2426 feet for the end of December until additional snow and precipitation data is available.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Historically the flood control rule curve for the Libby project was set at elevation 2411 feet at the end of December. The Corps developed a modified flood control procedure in 2004 and adopted an early forecast procedure. This new procedure allowed the project to be operated to an end of December elevation that ranged from 2411 feet to 2426 feet based on a December forecast. The early forecast procedure is largely based on two components: the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and the quantity of fall precipitation. This year the SOI is strongly indicative of an El Nino condition and the fall precipitation has been near to above average. The Corps' current forecast for the Libby project for the April – August period may result in some relaxation of the draft to the 2411-foot elevation at the end of December. However, the salmon managers would still like the Corps to consider targeting an end of December elevation as high as 2426 feet until additional snow and precipitation data is available. The basis for this request is two-fold. One is the long-term 90-day outlook being provided by the Climate Prediction Center which calls for below average precipitation and above average temperature for the northwest (Figure 1). The second concern is the salmon managers would like all available measures to be in place in the event 2016 is yet another low runoff year.



**Figure 1. Climate Prediction Center long-term 90-day outlook.**