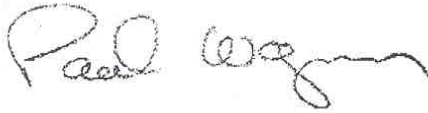


## **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2006-8**

*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, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Brigadier General Gregg F. Martin</b>	<b>COE-NWD</b>
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	<b>Stephen J. Wright</b>	<b>BPA-Administrator</b>
	<b>Greg Delwiche</b>	<b>BPA-PG-5</b>



**FROM:** Paul Wagner, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

**DATE:** December 12, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Libby Dam VARQ Operations

**SPECIFICATIONS:** Implement Libby VARQ Flood Control Operations Over the Winter/Spring of 2006/2007.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Over a decade of research has shown that Variable Flow (VARQ) flood control operations are safe if implemented as designed. Implementing VARQ flood control operations improve the probability of reservoir refill, which increases the number of years that water is available during the summer and improves reservoir productivity. VARQ operations were designed to provide higher outflows from the projects during the spring runoff than under the normal flood control operations as outlined in the Columbia River Treaty Flood Control Operating Plan. Increases in water releases during mid-April –May help to mimic normative increases in flow at the beginning of spring runoff. VARQ outflows are more consistent with releases made to meet flow objectives for resident white sturgeon and bull trout, and anadromous Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead.