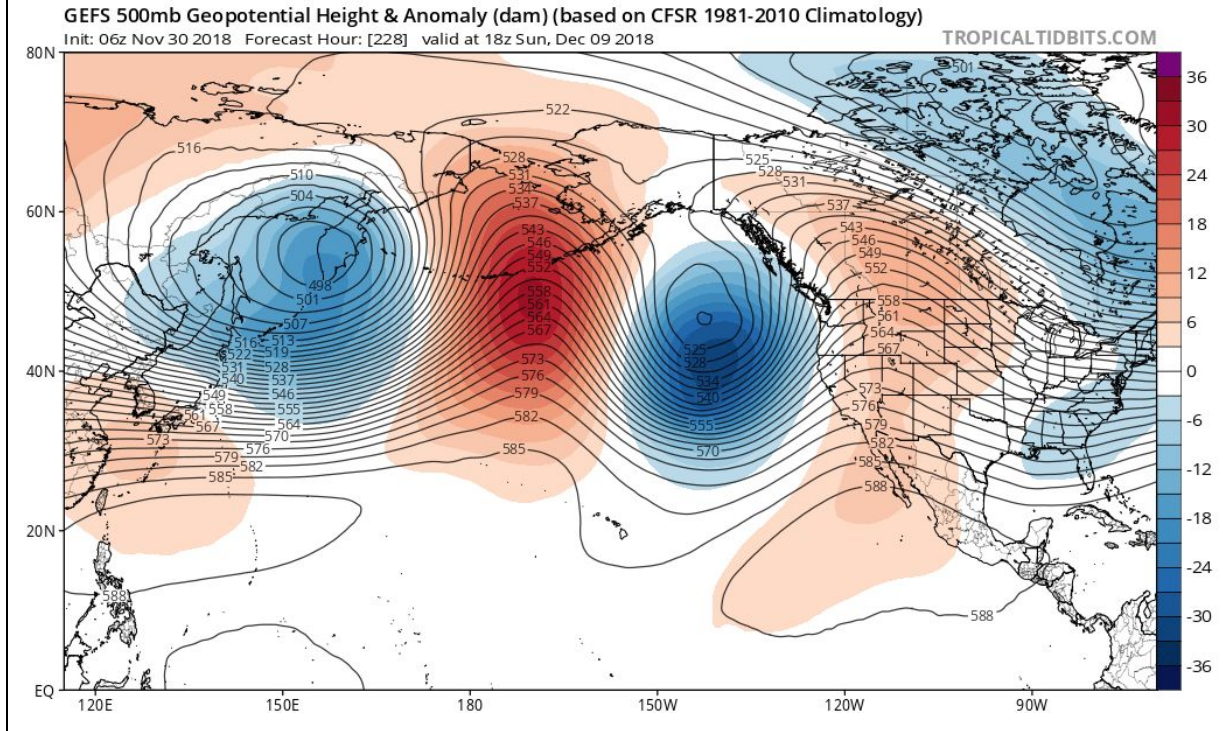


06z GEFS 500mb Pattern in the N Pacific Valid 12/9



Graphic Discussion

While a moderation period is certainly inevitable and will have some significantly warm temperatures at times, there is increasing competing factors at play that may ultimately make this moderation pretty short-lived -- perhaps even shorter lived than what was expected. This is the 6z GEFS 500mb pattern in the North Pacific: notice the trough → ridge → trough series. There is a lot of west to east momentum that will try to flatten out these waves and lead to the big trough near Russia moving into Alaska, and resulting in a relatively long, warm pattern. But notice how amplified the Aleutian ridge is initially: if that ridge can break into the Aleutians and then towards the Arctic before that happens, then the west to east momentum would slow down (the ridge acts as a semi brick wall), and that vortex would thus never truly make it to Alaska. This in theory could have a domino effect to further reinforce the eventual Pacific retrogression back into an Aleutian low and +PNA as soon as 12/17 or so: there is already evidence of this occurring on all ensemble means. This could lead to some cooler weather returning into the Central US and Midwest not long after 12/15, and this would then spread eastward in only a few days time. Of course, if that ridge does not break north of the Aleutians and it remains more zonal, then the EPS will be correct with its bigger warm pattern. But the EPS often overly smooths out these Pacific wave trains, and thus it could be too flat with that Aleutian ridge, which means it could be missing this entire process.

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