

**JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE**

**ELWHA RIVER DAM REMOVAL AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION ECOSYSTEM SERVICE VALUATION PILOT PROJECT**

**OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0638**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would like to request approval to conduct 12 additional focus groups, of 10 persons each, for its Elwha River Dam Removal and Floodplain Restoration Ecosystem Service Valuation Pilot Project (the “Pilot Project”). NOAA has already received approval from OMB to conduct focus groups, stakeholder meetings and one-on-one interviews to develop and test the Elwha River Dam Removal and Floodplain Restoration Ecosystem Service Valuation Survey it is developing. This request is for an additional 240 burden hours, which would bring the total burden hours for the Pilot Project to 544 hours.

These additional focus groups will (1) allow NOAA to better understand and characterize the public’s understanding about ecosystem service measures (metrics) and value of these types of restoration activities and changes in ecosystem services associated with the river habitat restoration, (2) evaluate how these measures and values may vary by geographic distance from the Elwha River area, and (3) give NOAA an opportunity to further test and refine the survey instrument. The overall approach for these additional focus groups is no different from what OMB approved for the initial 12 focus groups (e.g., NOAA will be asking participants the same types of questions).

**Estimated Burden Hours for the Additional Focus Groups**

Estimated number of participants.....	120
Estimated time per response.....	2 hours
Estimated total annual burden hours.....	240 hours