NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 09/07/2017

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Rod Turk
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 08/02/2017

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201707-0648-003
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Day 8-10 Timeline Forecast Survey and Focus Groups
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0757
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 09/30/2020 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	775	485	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	775	485	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Dominic J. Mancini
Deputy and Acting Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Focus groups and interviews	NA	Probabilistic 8-10 day forecast users' groups	
Online survey	NA	8-10 day probabalistic product survey	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NWS

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 -_____ b. [ ] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [✔] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [ ] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify:_____

7. Title Day 8-10 Timeline Forecast Survey and Focus Groups

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*) NA

9. Keywords

10. Abstract

Increasingly, user demand is reflecting a need for probabilistic forecasts in the 8 to 10 day time frame. Improved forecast capability means the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) can begin to address this user need, but the task is complicated by the range of possible forecast format and delivery needs and options. WPC is seeking user-tested and informed guidance on how to present forecasts at the 8 to10 day time frame. WPC is looking to understand how probabilistic forecasts can improve core user decision-making in this range, and for guidance on the format and design of forecasts, based on iterative field-testing of core users. WPC requires a robust understanding of core user needs in this time frame, as well as explanation of the preferred web delivery methods and the optimal mix of design and delivery considerations. WPC also requires information about what products end-users are utilizing and how they are being used. To assess ways to improve guidance products for producing forecasts, the project will include meeting with forecasters, conducting phone interviews and web-based focus groups with core partners and posting an online public survey.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. X Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. X Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents 775
b. Total annual responses 775
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 50 %
c. Total annual hours requested 485
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference _____
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change _____
2. Adjustment _____

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M) 0
c. Total annualized cost requested 0
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference _____
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change _____
2. Adjustment _____

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. P Program planning or management
b. X Program evaluation f. ___ Research
c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [ ] Recordkeeping b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [✔] Reporting
1. [ ] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [ ] Other (describe) One time

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[✔] Yes [ ] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Kate Quigley
Phone: 843-327-1114

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by Jennifer Sprague	Date 7/26/2017
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER, cn=BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Date: 2017.09.08 15:40:20 -04'00'	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
Day 8-10 Timeline Forecast Survey and Focus Groups
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

Increasingly, user demand is reflecting a need for probabilistic forecasts in the 8 to 10 day time frame. Improved forecast capability means the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) can begin to address this user need, but the task is complicated by the range of possible forecast format and delivery needs and options. WPC is seeking user-tested and informed guidance on how to present forecasts at the 8 to10 day time frame. WPC is looking to understand how probabilistic forecasts can improve core user decision-making in this range, and for guidance on the format and design of forecasts, based on iterative field-testing of core users. WPC requires a robust understanding of core user needs in this time frame, as well as explanation of the preferred web delivery methods and the optimal mix of design and delivery considerations. WPC also requires information about what products end-users are utilizing and how they are being used. To assess ways to improve guidance products for producing forecasts, the project will include meeting with forecasters, conducting phone interviews and web-based focus groups with core partners and posting an online public survey.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

How will the information be used?

Staff will make assessments using the information from interviews and focus groups to help to better understand the decision-making and information needs of core partner users, and specifically, their needs for information from WPC products, including the need for and interest in forecasts in the 8 to 10 day range and how best to show the probability of long range forecasts. By doing this research, we hope to learn how probabilistic forecasts can improve decision-making in the 8 to 10 day timeframe.

A brief, web-based survey will be given that will guide end-users through a series of questions to identify what WPC products they use and how they would use 8 to 10 day probabilistic information from WPC. The WPC will use the information collected to conduct a complete evaluation of WPC prototype products and services and apply that information to creating better and more easily understandable weather forecast products.

By whom will the information be used?
The information will be used by WPC.

How frequently will the information be used?
The information provided by this data collection will be used on an ongoing basis to provide insight and guidance for developing probabilistic forecasts. Additionally, the data collected will be used to refine and enhance final WPC products and to provide insight to WPC when developing future products pertaining to day 8 to 10 timeline forecasts.

For what purpose will the information be used?
The information will provide WPC staff with the guidance needed to develop 8 to 10 day weather prediction products. Creating easier to use visualizations and communication products will provide the public and decision-makers accurate information that is understandable and will enhance value for a variety of weather related decision processes. Survey and focus group results will define how to present the probabilistic forecast tools clearly and concisely.

How does the data collection comply with all applicable Information Quality guidelines?
The WPC will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with WPC standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106 554.

Survey Information
The survey to elicit public perceptions of and reactions to the variations in products will consist of three sets of questions: 1) demographic and locational characteristics of respondents; 2) current use and knowledge of WPC products; and 3) understanding of and reactions to the various representations of long range probabilistic forecast products.

For dissemination, the survey will be promoted widely nationwide through other outlets such as local weather channels via broadcast meteorologists and their social media accounts, WPC regional office social media accounts, and emergency management agency websites.

For the online survey, collection of demographic and locational characteristics information consists of multiple choice questions about age, gender, place of residence, employment position (self-employed, student, unemployed, government, private, etc.) and relationship to the National Weather Service (NWS) (member of the public, employee at local WFO, etc.).

To develop an understanding of current use and knowledge of WPC products, the respondents are asked multiple choice questions about where they get information about weather, how often they check the weather forecast, to what extent would an 8 to 10 day forecast assist decision-making, what are reasons for interest in an 8 to 10 day forecast, type of forecast preferred and usefulness of forecasts that provide probabilities.

The last section of the survey presents a series of graphics showing 8-10 day forecasts for temperature, precipitation, hazards and winter weather and asks the respondent multiple choice questions about what the product tells them, how likely they would be to use the product, what is their perception with respect to specific qualities (information included, format, understandability, graphics, text, and use of color). These questions are repeated for each

graphic. The online survey then asks the respondent about their interest in seeing similar graphics for heat index and wind chill, how they would like to receive this type of forecast and two open ended questions pertaining to other types of weather information preferred and additional comments about 8 to 10 day probabilistic Weather Prediction Center products.

Interviews and Focus Group Information

To identify the core partner and end-user audiences and their potential use of these products, staff will use a two-pronged strategy involving web-based focus groups and phone interviews as well as a web-based survey. First, staff will assemble a list of core partner user groups, working in cooperation with WPC forecasters and building upon identified work through other social science research, web analytics and/or analysis completed by WPC, Climate Prediction Center or other offices. Staff will review existing lists and catalogs to develop a working list of core partner users, including groups such as emergency managers, water suppliers, transportation officials, and others.

From this list, staff will work to identify specific individuals, representing a national distribution, for participation in phone interviews and small web-based focus groups. Staff anticipate hosting 3 focus groups with 5-10 participants in each session representing different core partner groups. In addition, where necessary and helpful to reach further participants, staff will conduct in-depth interviews, conducted via phone and where possible, in person, with other core partners who are users of WPC products. These interviews and focus groups will help to better understand the decision-making and information needs of these core partner users, and specifically, their needs for information from WPC products, including probabilistic forecasts. The focus groups (1.5 to 2 hours in length) will ask core partner users to identify the critical stages of the decision-making processes, and the ways in which various core partner user groups use and/or would use WPC information throughout their decision-making, focusing on the 8 to 10 day time frame but inclusive of the 1-7 day period for a complete understanding of needs. Focus groups and interviews will be facilitated by the Senior Social Scientists, with members of the research team attending to assist in recording and analysis.

After the focus groups, interviews and web-based survey are complete, staff will analyze all qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate the WPC prototype products and services. Staff will develop an infographic that maps identified core partner users and their key decision-making needs for WPC forecast information in the 8 to 10 day timeframe. Then, drawing on the survey data from end users (which will include product-specific feedback), as well as the analysis of core partner user feedback, the staff will work to identify recommended improvements to WPC probabilistic prototype products. Specifically, staff will make changes to product design (e.g., including critical design and content factors, such as color, legends, balance of text and graphics, geographic specificity, clear definition of impacts, etc.)

Once prototype products appear ready for audience review, staff will reconvene with the identified core partner representatives for a second round of web-based focus groups and interviews, this time specifically focused on reviewing how the proposed prototypes meet the decision-making needs identified in the first round of discussion. These focus groups (i.e., 3) will guide participants through a series of product-focused questions related to their user group needs, and will query about how the products would be used, and how they could be further improved. These discussions will identify the range of decision-making contexts in which participants

believe they would use the products, and will ask participants to specifically address the design elements (e.g., color, legends, balance of text, graphic presentation), as well as to provide feedback about preferred formats for information and the desired pathways for web-based information (i.e., where should information be located for most efficient access? Should it be pushed to users or pulled down as needed and in either case, how? What dissemination pathways are most helpful?) Questions will aim to identify those design factors that help distinguish low and high-impacts events, as well as to identify how the use of stories (including such elements as historical comparisons and description of variables affecting probabilities) in product development assists in decision-making.

From this second round of focus groups and interviews, staff will develop recommendations for further improvement to existing prototype probabilistic products, as well as recommend new products that may emerge as critical. Where it is deemed helpful, staff will re-assemble select members of the focus groups for an iterative review of prototype products, in order to give increasing levels of specificity on feedback to the product design.

Qualitative data from the focus groups, along with the quantitative findings from the web-based survey, will be assembled into a final visual infographic that provides an overview of the decision-making process for core partner and other end-user groups, including the information they need, the timing of that information, and findings on the design and delivery formats preferred. The infographic will identify the key challenges in end-user group access, use of 8 to 10 day forecasts, and a summary of the key recommendations for improving design and delivery formats.

3. <u>Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology</u>.

The information collected via the online survey will make use of automated, electronic, mechanical and other technological techniques. The online survey will use a “responsive” web-based survey, meaning that its display will adapt to a desktop or mobile device screen allowing the public to take the survey whenever they have internet access, and will be built with a Microsoft SQL database back-end and ASP.net/C-sharp front-end. The web-based survey’s “landing” page will have a brief description of the survey, and a “Completely Automated Public Turning test to tell Computers and Humans Apart” (CAPTCHA) component which will be implemented to prevent “robots” from entering multiple copies of the survey. The web-based survey will also include a “completeness meter” to inform users of how close they are to completing the survey. The survey will display an error message when the user tries to navigate to the next web page without answering all the questions on the current page. Data collected through the web survey will be downloaded via Microsoft Excel and will be available in that format for data analysis.

The focus group data will be collected manually and entered directly into a desktop computer. Transcripts from each of the focus groups will also be provided.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Based on discussions with WPC staff and risk assessment social scientists, there is no significant duplication of effort within WPC or with other federal surveys.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The collection of this information does not involve small businesses or other small entities.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

The WPC is tasked with providing weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy. If this data is not collected, WPC will not be able to provide a public and understandable probabilistic weather information in the 8 to 10 day range. Survey and focus group results will define how to present the 8 to 10 day prediction graphics clearly and concisely to best elicit the appropriate response from society.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection will be conducted in a manner consistent with OMB Guidelines.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on May 11, 2017 (82 FR 90) solicited public comments. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are made.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

As stated on the survey and at the focus groups and during interviews, the data collected will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Survey:
Total responses: 700 completed surveys
Completion time: 30 minutes
Total hours: 350 hours

Focus groups:
Total number: 60 participants
Completion time: 2 hours
Total hours: 120 hours

Interviews:
Total number: 15 participants
Completion time: 1 hour
Total hours: 15

Total respondents and responses: 775. Total hours: 485.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

There are no start-up, capital, or maintenance costs associated with this collection. No new or specialized equipment is needed to respond to this collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The estimated cost to the Government is a one-time cost of $44,882.45 for conducting the online survey and focus groups, developing the surveys and prototypes, entering the data from the survey and focus groups, analysis of the data and creation of a final report.

Any scientific publications will be developed by NWS staff as part of their regular federal duties.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

This is a new submission.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

All results from the survey and focus groups will be entered in a database using standard QA/QC

procedures in survey research. The data will be analyzed using standard software (e.g. SPSS) and standard statistical procedures that are appropriate for survey data. Results from this collection may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications, and would follow prescribed statistical tabulations and summary table formats.

Data from this survey may support research and analyses to be presented at appropriate professional meetings and may be submitted for publication in appropriate peer-reviewed journals.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

NA.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

NA.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
Day 8-10 Timeline Forecast Survey and Focus Groups
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

Each of the nine focus groups will involve 5-10 individuals. Each of the potentially three rounds of interviews will involve 5 individuals for each round. From an existing list of core partner users (emergency managers, water utility, transportation, etc.), staff will work to identify specific individuals, representing a national distribution, for participation in phone interviews and small web-based focus groups.

For dissemination, staff will provide the web-based survey's link to WPC so that it is posted on various websites. In addition, the survey will be promoted widely nationwide through other outlets such as local weather channels via broadcast meteorologists and their social media accounts and working with core users' (i.e. emergency manager) points of contacts to utilize their local contacts and list serves. With the wide distribution, the target number of responses is 500-700 for the public survey.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

Participants in the web-based focus groups and phone interviews will be chosen by WPC staff from an existing list of core partner users (emergency managers, water utility decision makers, transportation specialists, etc.). The individuals will represent a national distribution and attendance will also be largely based on availability.

With regard to the online survey, there is no statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection used or a specialized sampling procedure. This sample is self-selected in that, the sample consists of those who access the online survey and complete it. There are no data collection cycles.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

The web survey sample is self-selected, in that the sample consists of those who access the online survey and complete it. The survey link will be kept open for as long as necessary to get a useful number of responses (500-700). While there is no expectation that the data will be able to be generalized, we do expect the data will be useful in achieving the objectives of the research.

With regards to the focus groups (60 participants in total), we will use various contacts as described in A.2 and B.2. to encourage participation in the focus groups. Since those who are invited to participate in the focus groups are likely to benefit directly from their participation, we expect a willingness to participate.

Those individuals (15 in total) that are unable to attend a focus group, will be interviewed.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

The online survey has been pilot tested to obtain feedback among East Carolina University (ECU) students, staff, and faculty via an internal, web-based questionnaire. The objective of the pilot was to ensure timeliness, completeness, compatibility with multiple viewing devices and browsers. The focus groups and interviews will use the same graphics and most of the same questions as used in the online survey except that the questions will be open ended and it will be a group discussion for the focus groups.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Sampling Design, Data Analysis, and Report Writing:
Kate Quigley, ECS Federal, LLC, 843-327-1114
Dr. Burrell Montz, East Carolina University, 252-328- 6086
Rachel Hogan Carr, Nurture Nature Center, 610-253-4432

Dear Participant,

Thank you for participating in this focus group. Your participation is voluntary and any information you provide will be kept anonymous.

The purpose of this research is to understand the need for and interest in forecasts in the 8 to 10 day range and how best to show the probability of long range forecasts. By doing this research, we hope to learn how probabilistic forecasts can improve decision-making in the 8 to 10 day timeframe.

During this focus group, you will be asked questions that relate to what certain products are showing you and your potential use of certain WPC products. You will be asked your understanding and perceptions on ways to show forecasts of probabilities of temperature, precipitation, and winter weather. The amount of time it will take you to participate in this focus group is approximately 1.5-2 hours.

This research is being conducted by an independent contractor, ECS Federal, LLC, on behalf of the National Weather Service. You do not have to take part in this focus group, and you can stop at any time.

Thank you for taking the time to participate.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Sprague, National Weather Service, Jennifer.sprague@noaa.gov.

Focus Group Protocol

Probabilistic 8-10 day forecast users' groups

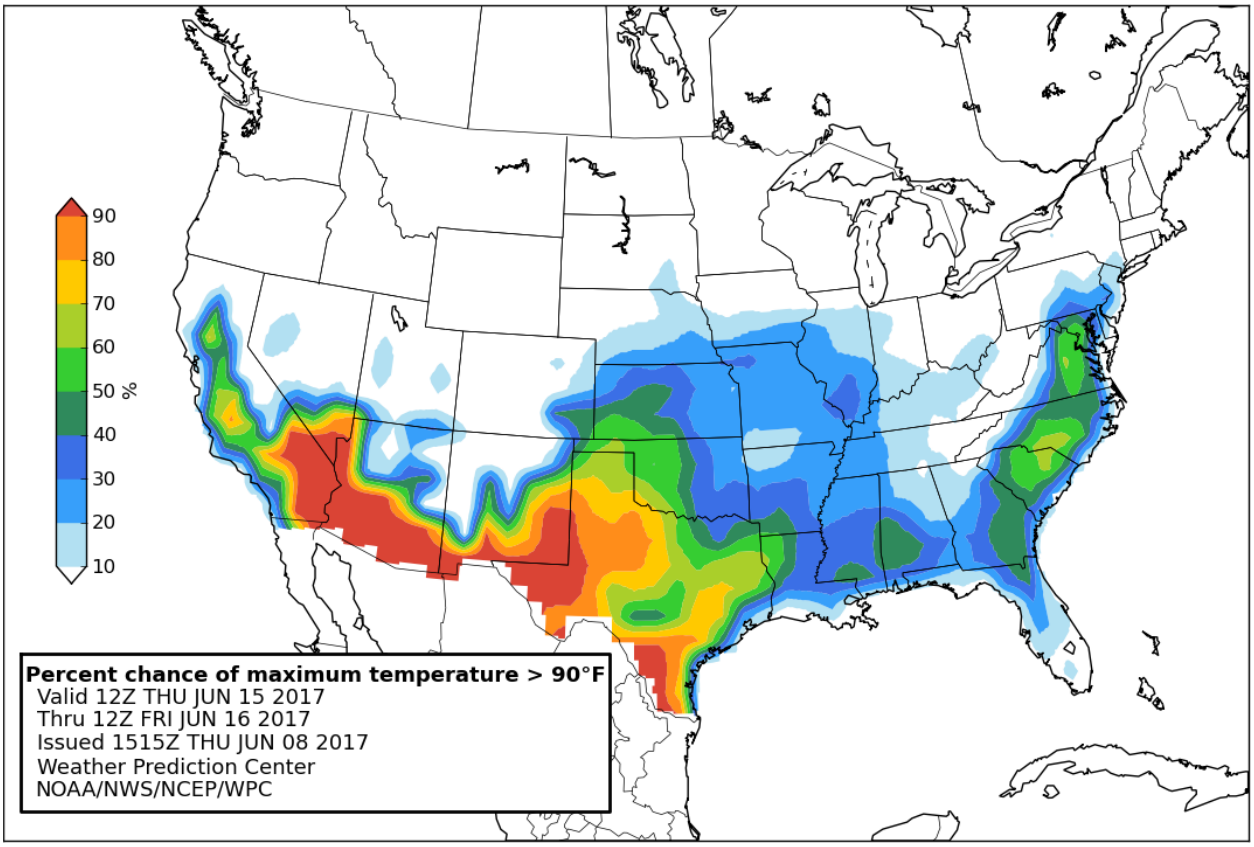
During this session, we will present you with a series of National Weather Service products and discuss your feedback to these products. We will focus on identifying your needs for probabilistic weather information in the 8-10 day range.

Discussion:

We are discussing today the use of day 8-10 probabilistic weather products, to identify how and when these might be useful to decision-making for core partner groups.

We are going to provide you with several visualizations and discuss each one individually.

Graphic #1



What is this product showing you?

What decisions do you make that could be assisted by the information in this product? When might you use this product?

What is your perception of this product with respect to the following qualities or characteristics?

- Information included
- Format
- Understandability
- Graphics
- Text
- Use of color

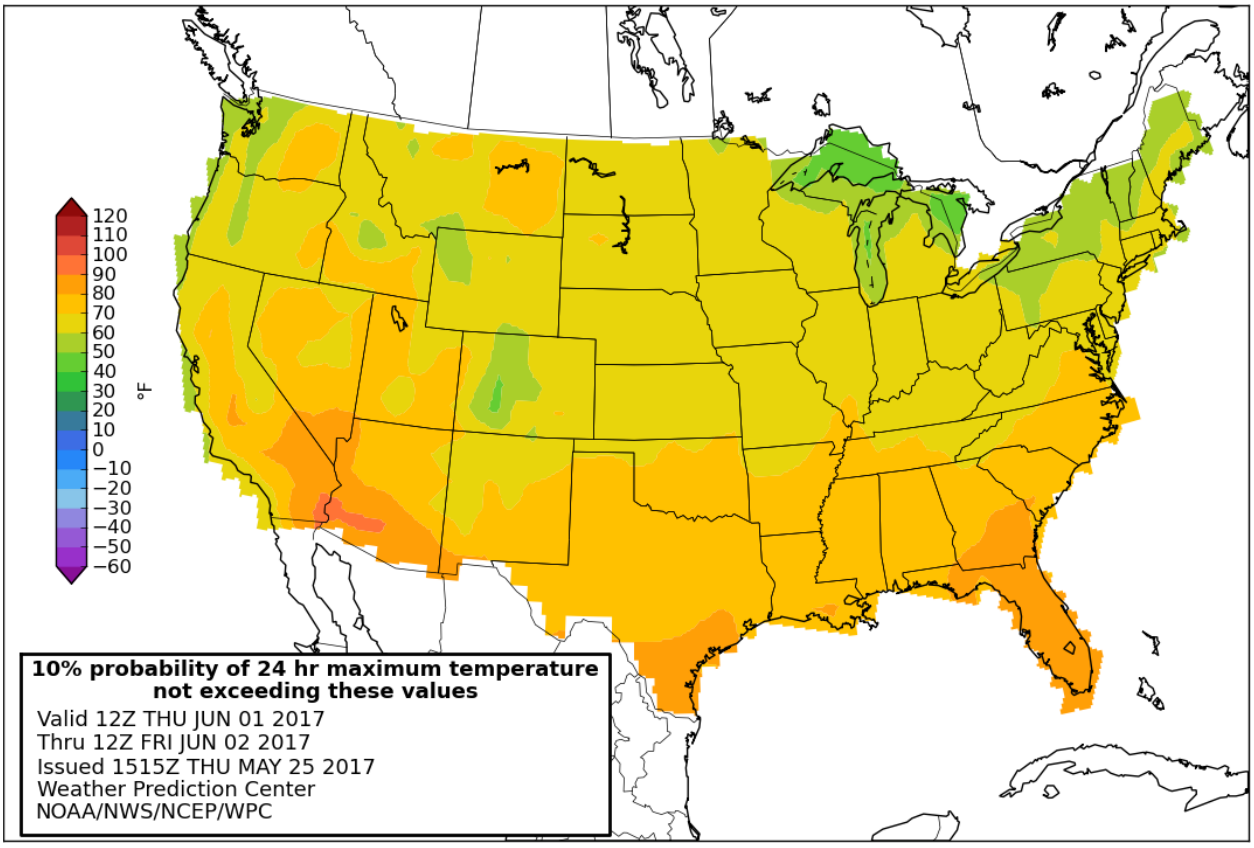
How helpful is this product for your day-to-day operations?

What actions would you take based on this product ? (Planning/Preparedness?)

Would you share this information with others in your organization?

Would you share this with your end user audience (if applicable?)

Graphic #2



What is this product showing you?

What decisions do you make that could be assisted by the information in this product? When might you use this product?

What is your perception of this product with respect to the following qualities or characteristics?

- Information included
- Format
- Understandability
- Graphics
- Text
- Use of color

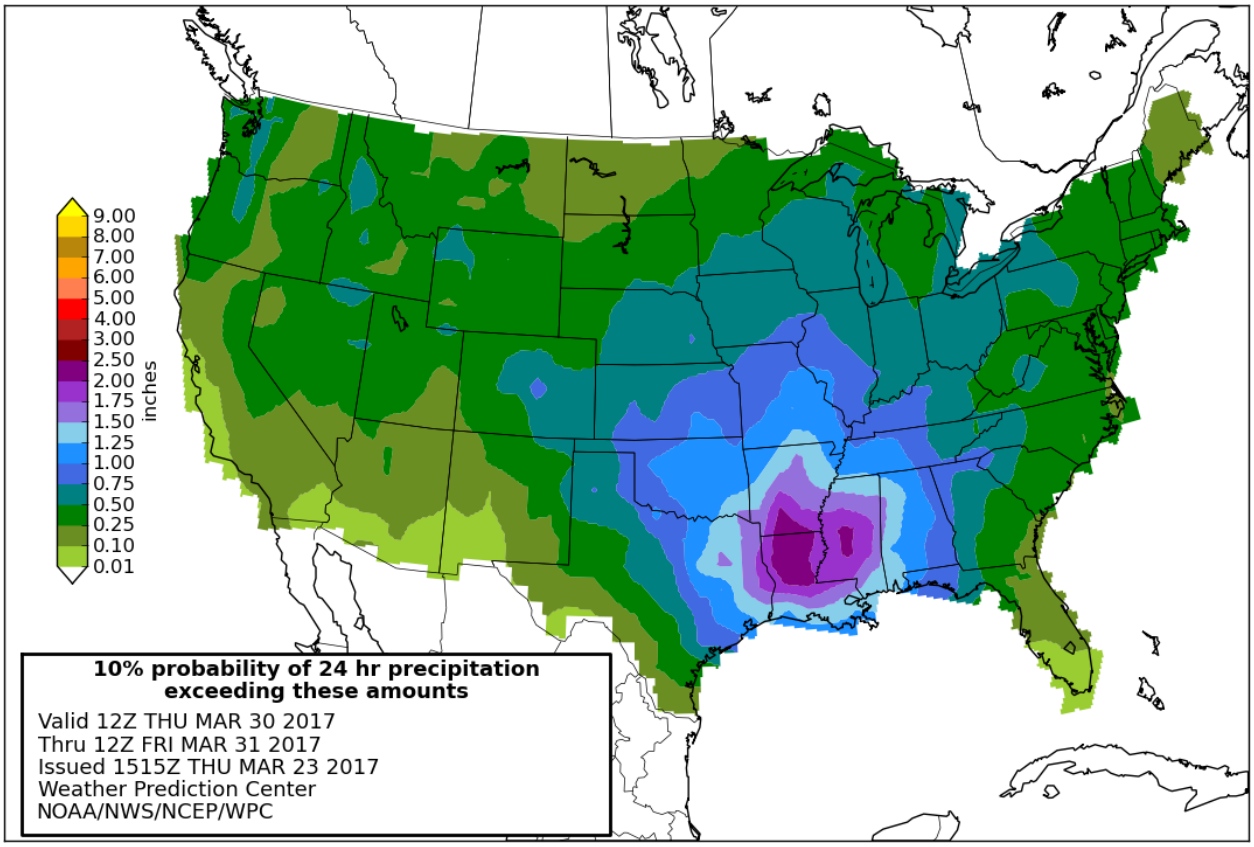
How helpful is this product for your day-to-day operations?

What actions would you take based on this product ? (Planning/Preparedness?)

Would you share this information with others in your organization?

Would you share this with your end user audience (if applicable?)

Graphic #3



What is this product showing you?

What decisions do you make that could be assisted by the information in this product? When might you use this product?

What is your perception of this product with respect to the following qualities or characteristics?

- Information included
- Format
- Understandability
- Graphics
- Text
- Use of color

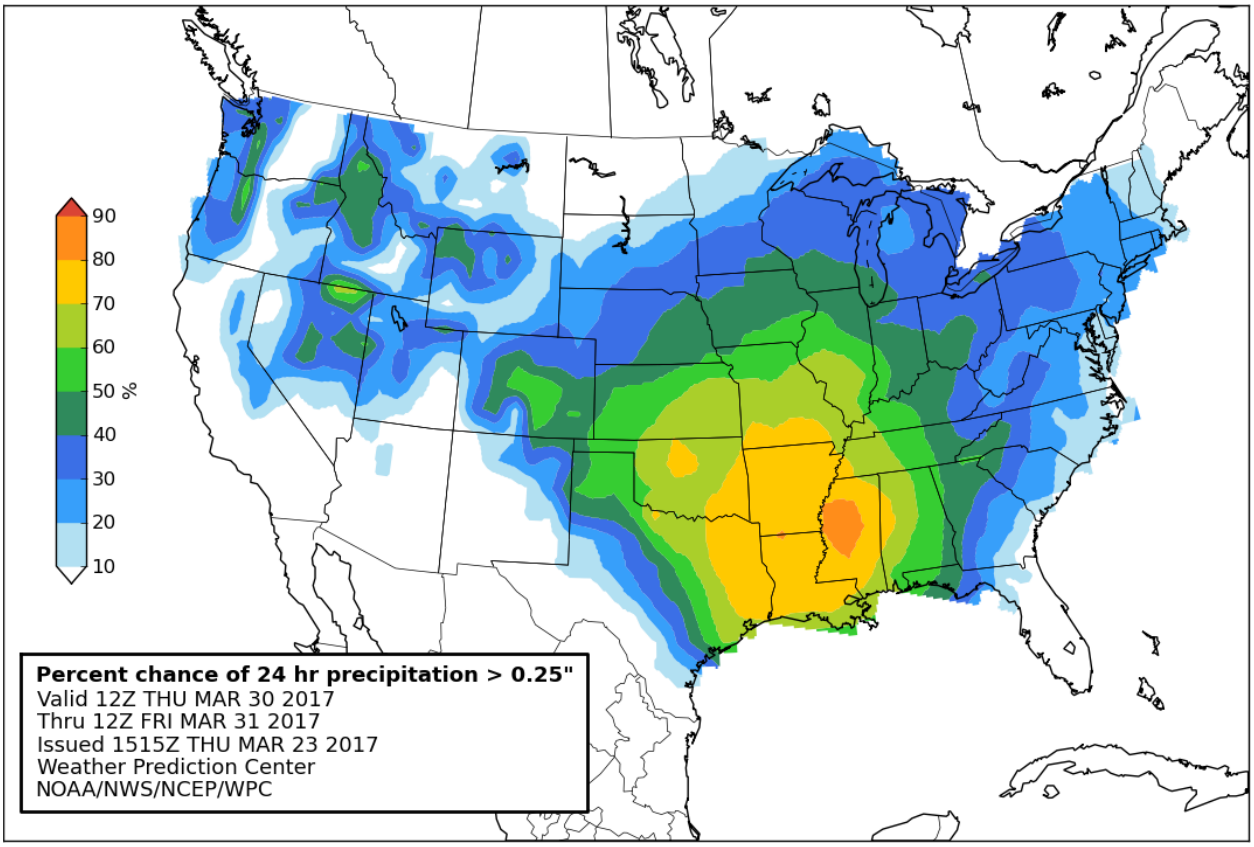
How helpful is this product for your day-to-day operations?

What actions would you take based on this product ? (Planning/Preparedness?)

Would you share this information with others in your organization?

Would you share this with your end user audience (if applicable?)

Graphic #4



What is this product showing you?

What decisions do you make that could be assisted by the information in this product? When might you use this product?

What is your perception of this product with respect to the following qualities or characteristics?

- Information included
- Format
- Understandability
- Graphics
- Text
- Use of color

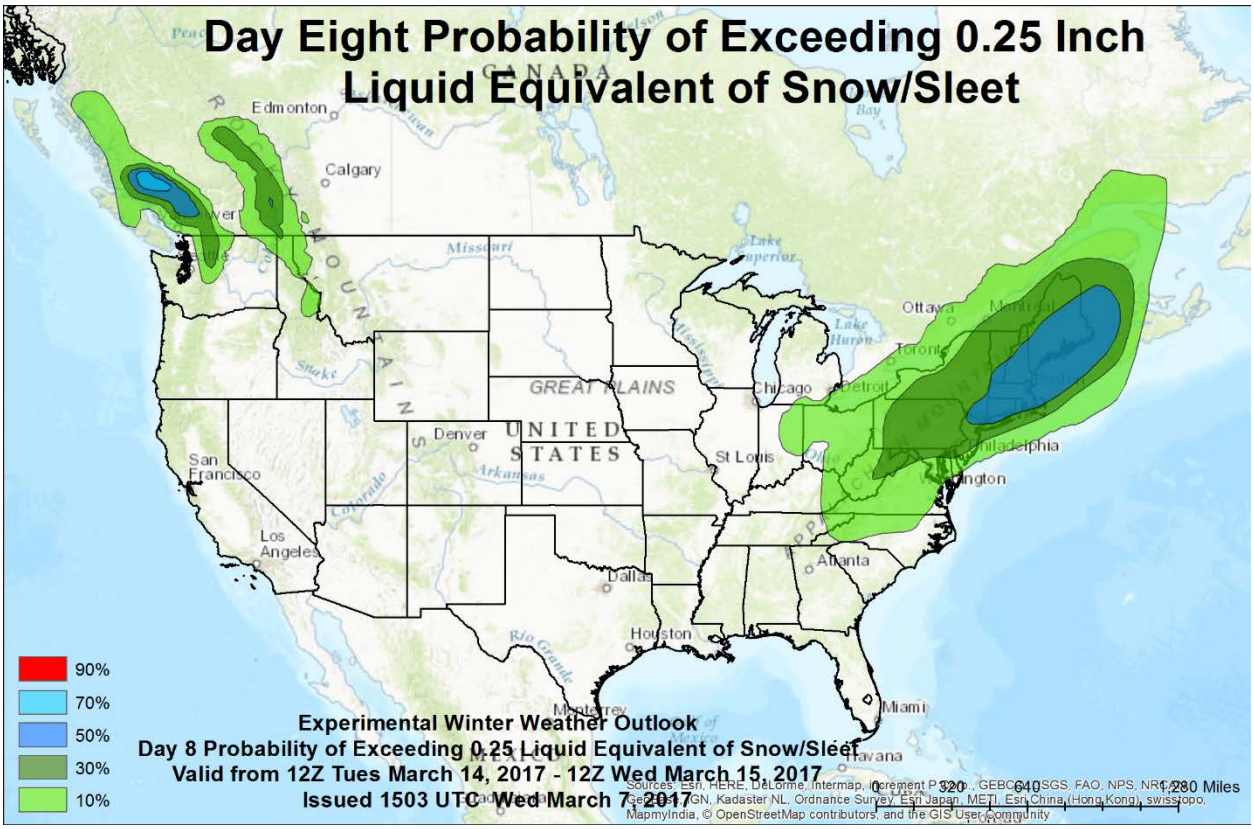
How helpful is this product for your day-to-day operations?

What actions would you take based on this product ? (Planning/Preparedness?)

Would you share this information with others in your organization?

Would you share this with your end user audience (if applicable?)

Graphic #5



What is this product showing you?

What decisions do you make that could be assisted by the information in this product? When might you use this product?

What is your perception of this product with respect to the following qualities or characteristics?

- Information included
- Format
- Understandability
- Graphics
- Text
- Use of color

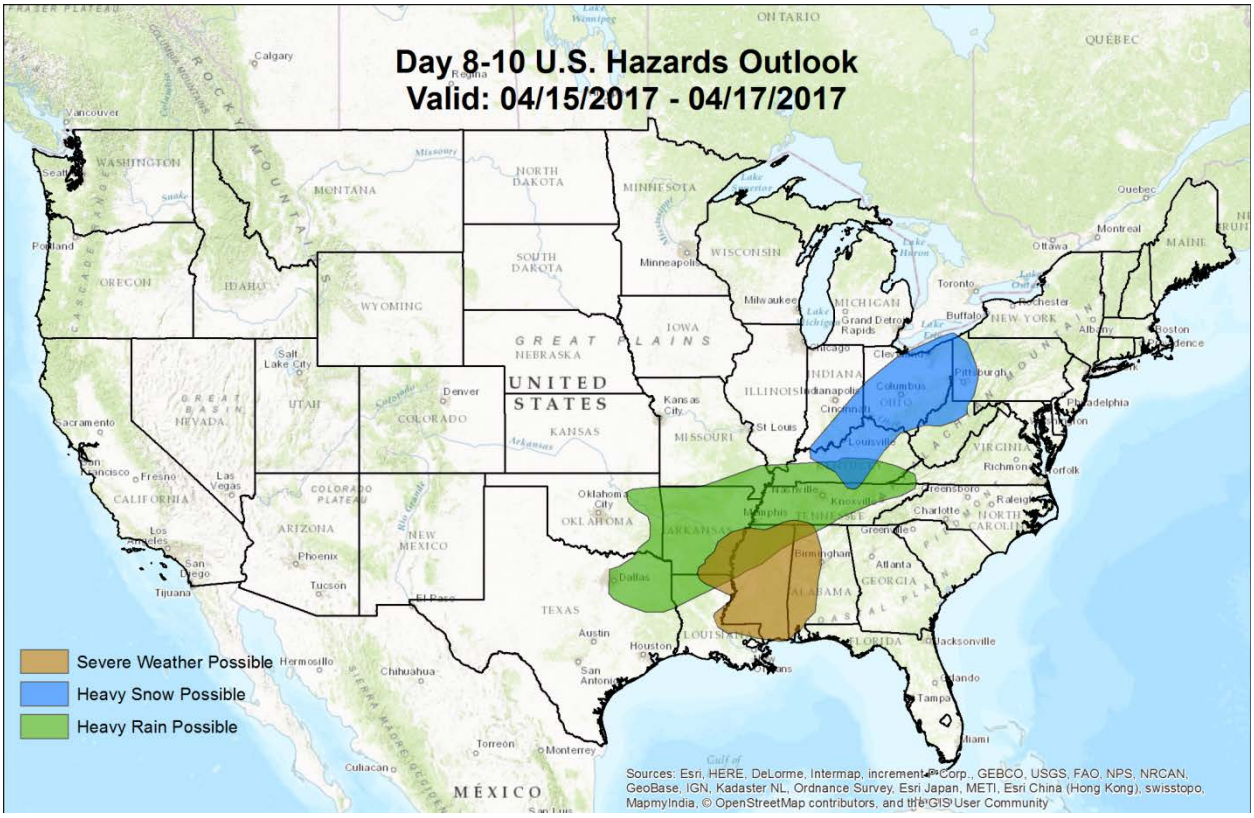
How helpful is this product for your day-to-day operations?

What actions would you take based on this product ? (Planning/Preparedness?)

Would you share this information with others in your organization?

Would you share this with your end user audience (if applicable?)

Graphic #6



What is this product showing you?

What decisions do you make that could be assisted by the information in this product? When might you use this product?

What is your perception of this product with respect to the following qualities or characteristics?

- Information included
- Format
- Understandability
- Graphics
- Text
- Use of color

How helpful is this product for your day-to-day operations?

What actions would you take based on this product ? (Planning/Preparedness?)

Would you share this information with others in your organization?

Would you share this with your end user audience (if applicable?)

***

After all graphics are shown:

Having seen these prototype products, is there other information you wish you could have in the day 8-10 day range? Or a different range of time?

Ask actions questions product by product, and at the end.

Dear Participant,

Thank you for logging into this survey. The survey is voluntary and any information you provide will be anonymous.

The purpose of this research is to understand the need for and interest in forecasts in the 8 to 10 day range and how best to show the probability of long range forecasts. By doing this research, we hope to learn how probabilistic forecasts can improve decision-making in the 8 to 10 day timeframe.

If you agree to take part in this survey, you will be asked questions that relate to how often you seek weather information and what decisions you make based on the weather forecast over one to two weeks. You will be asked your understanding and perceptions on ways to show forecasts of probabilities of temperature, precipitation, and winter weather. In addition, we will be collecting some demographic information. The amount of time it will take you to complete this survey is approximately 30 minutes.

This research is being conducted by an independent contractor, ECS Federal, LLC, on behalf of the National Weather Service. You do not have to take part in this research, and you can stop at any time. If you decide you are willing to take part in this study, please click here.

Thank you for taking the time to participate.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Sprague, National Weather Service, jennifer.sprague@noaa.gov.

1. What is your age?
- ❍ under 20
- ❍ 20-29
- ❍ 30-39
- ❍ 40-49
- ❍ 50-59
- ❍ 60-69
- ❍ 70+

2. What is your gender?
- ❍ Male
- ❍ Female
- ❍ Other

3. What is your highest level of education?
- ❍ High school (no diploma)
- ❍ High school diploma or GED
- ❍ Some college
- ❍ Associates degree
- ❍ Bachelor's degree
- ❍ Graduate/Professional degree
- ❍ Prefer not to answer

4. Please enter your zipcode_____

5. What best describes your employment?
- ❍ Self-employed
- ❍ Student
- ❍ Unemployed
- ❍ Government
- ❍ Private
- ❍ Non-profit
- ❍ Education
- ❍ Other

6. What is your relationship to the National Weather Service?
- ❍ Member of the public/do not work for NWS
- ❍ Employee at local WFO
- ❍ Employee at a NWS Regional Office
- ❍ Employee at a NWS National Center
- ❍ Employee at a RFC or ROC

- ❍ Collaborate with NWS
- ❍ Other

7. How often do you seek weather information (on average)?

	Several times a day	Once a day	Several times a week	Once a week	I rarely check the forecast
For tomorrow					
For 2 to 4 days from now					
For 5 to 7 days from now					
For 8-10 days from mow					

8. Where do you get information about the weather? (Please check all that apply)

- ❑ NOAA (National Weather Service) websites
- ❑ Other weather websites
- ❑ TV
- ❑ Radio
- ❑ Smartphone app(s)
- ❑ Twitter
- ❑ Facebook
- ❑ Other (please specify) _____

9. To what extent would the following 8 to 10 day forecasts assist your decision making?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Neither helpful nor unhelpful	Somewhat unhelpful	Very unhelpful
8-10 day temperature forecast					
8-10 day precipitation forecast					
8-10 day winter weather forecast					
8-10 day heat index forecast					

10. What reasons would you be interested in the forecast 8 to 10 days out (select all that apply)?

- □ General interest
- □ Decisions related to a planned event or activity
- □ Decisions related to travel plans

- ☐ Decisions related to work
- ☐ Decisions related to home maintenance
- ☐ Resource management/planning (decisions related to managing reservoirs, forests, etc.)
- ☐ Economic decision making/planning (decisions related to your business or purchasing decisions)
- ☐ Preparedness actions (preparing for weather events/natural hazards)
- ☐ I would not be interested in an 8 to 10 day forecast
- ☐ Other

11. What type of forecast do you prefer?

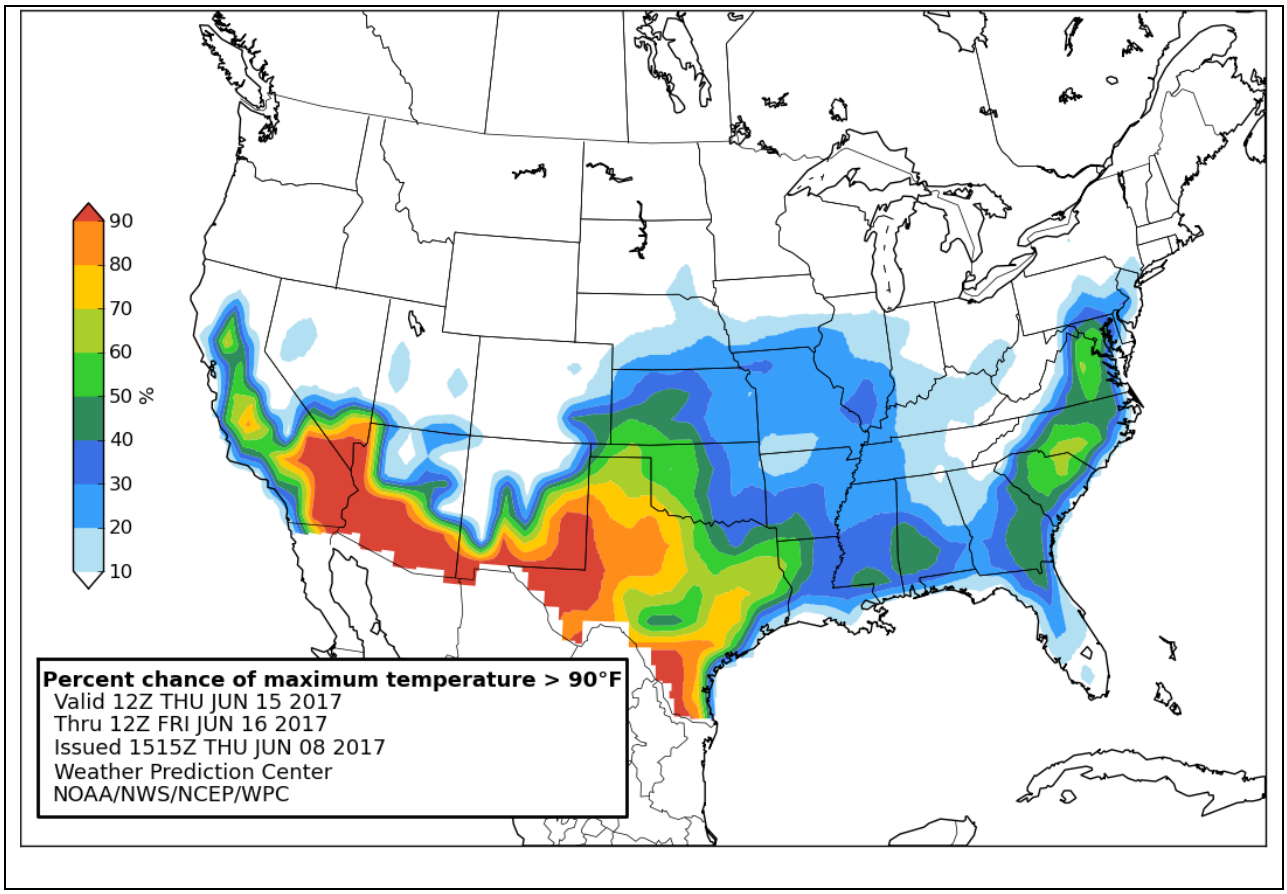
- ❍ A single, deterministic forecast. For example, "It will be 70°F on Tuesday."
- ❍ A range of possible forecasts. For example, "It could be between 60°F and 72°F on Tuesday."
- ❍ A probabilistic forecast such as "There is a 70% chance of reaching 65°F on Tuesday."
- ❍ A probabilistic forecast range such as, "There is a 60% chance of the temperature being 10°F above normal."

12. How useful to you is a forecast that provides probabilities?

- ❍ Very useful
- ❍ Somewhat useful
- ❍ Neither useful nor not useful
- ❍ Somewhat not useful
- ❍ Not useful at all

<u>Specific product questions</u>

Graphic 1:



13. What do you think this product is showing?

- ❍ The amount of confidence the forecasters have that it will be 90°F 8 days out
- ❍ The probability that the maximum temperature will exceed 90°F 8 days out
- ❍ The temperature will be 90°F 8 days out
- ❍ The percentage of the day that the temperature will be 90°F 8 days out
- ❍ I don't know

14. How likely would you be to use this product?

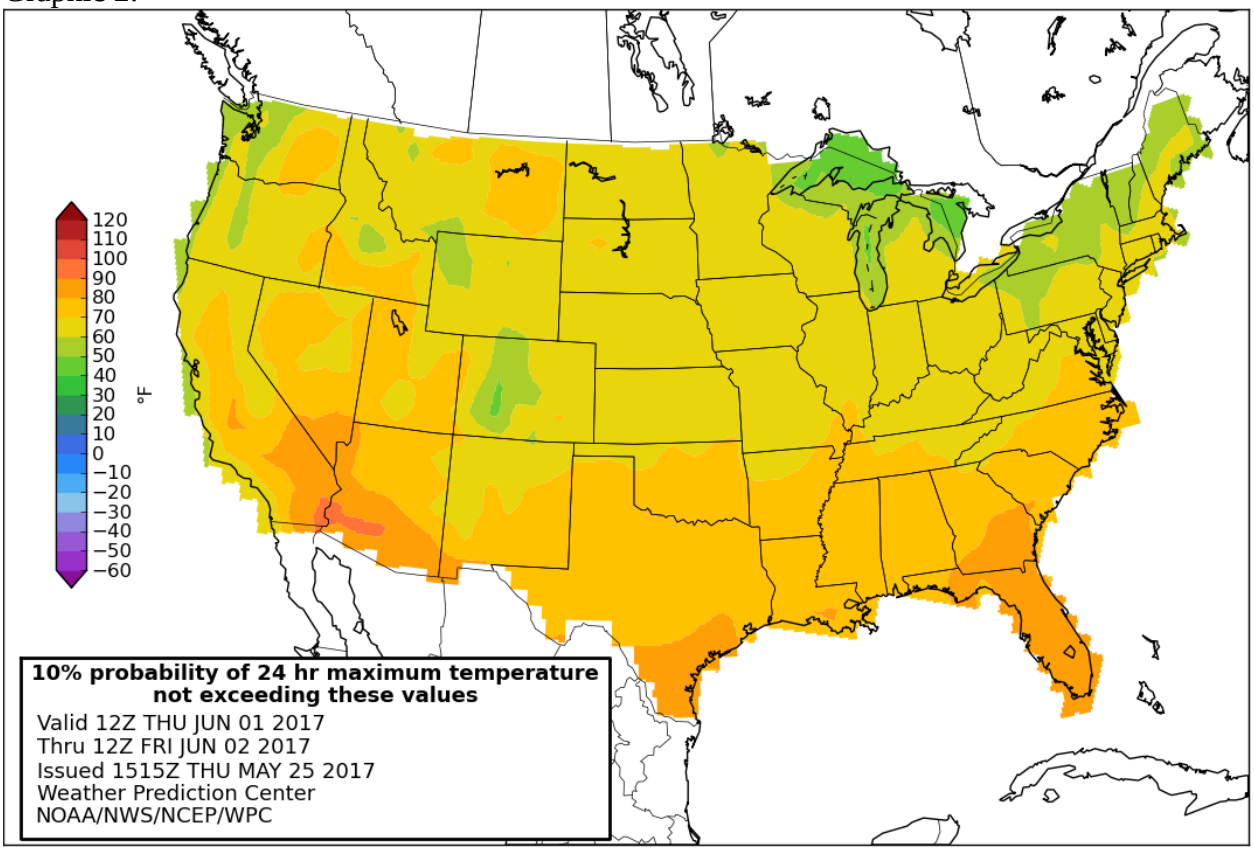
- ❍ Very likely
- ❍ Somewhat likely
- ❍ Neither likely nor unlikely
- ❍ Somewhat unlikely
- ❍ Very unlikely

15. Considering the product above, rate the following components:

	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neutral	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Don't know
Information included						
Format						
Understandability						
Graphics						

Text						
Use of color						

Graphic 2:



16. What do you think this product is showing?

- ❍ The temperature values on the map are the forecast for 8 days out
- ❍ There is a 10% chance the temperature will not exceed the levels shown on the map 8 days out
- ❍ The forecasters are 90% certain it will exceed the temperatures shown on the map 8 days out
- ❍ There is a 90% chance the temperatures will be cooler than the amounts shown on the map 8 days out
- ❍ I don't know

17. How likely would you be to use this product?

- ❍ Very likely
- ❍ Somewhat likely
- ❍ Neither likely nor unlikely
- ❍ Somewhat unlikely
- ❍ Very unlikely

Considering the product above, rate the following components:

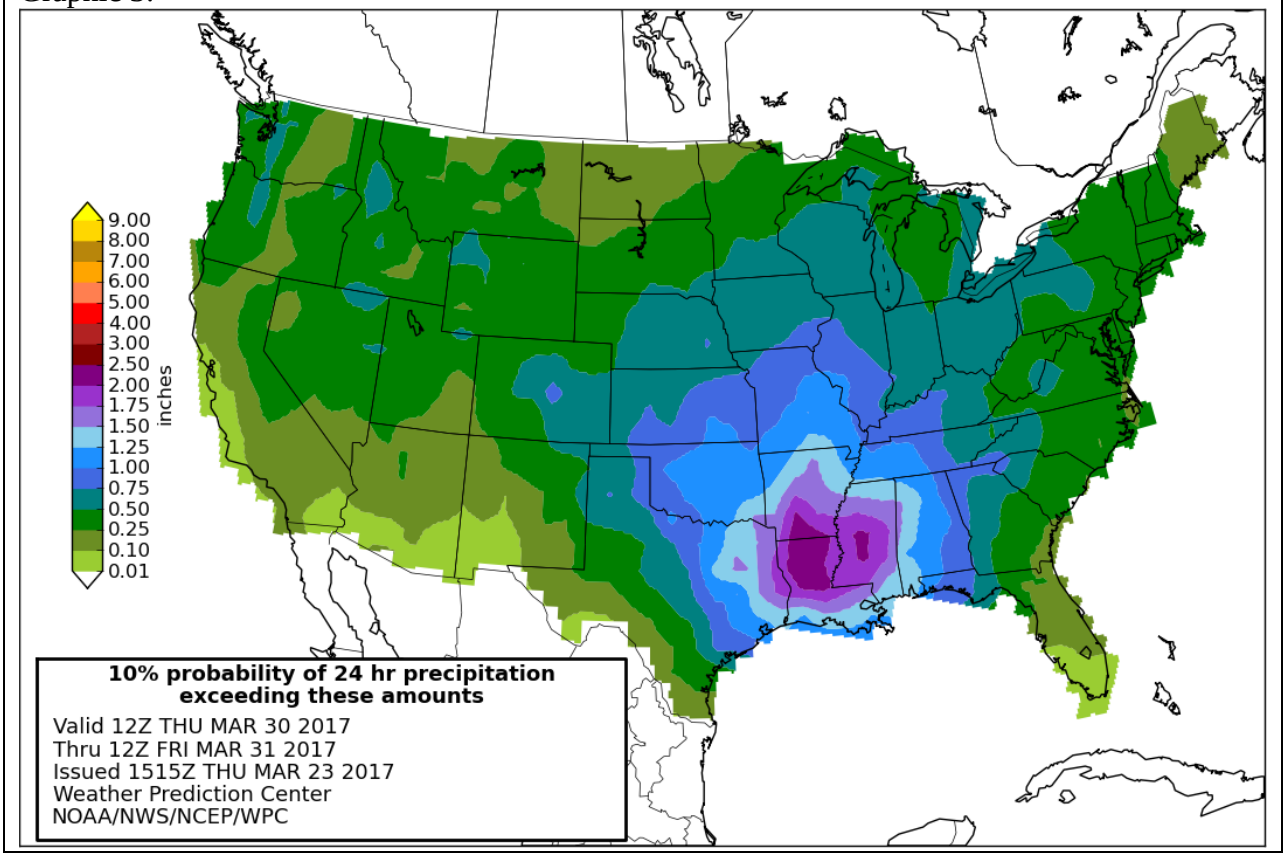
	Very	Somewhat	Neutral	Somewhat	Very	Don't

	negative	negative		positive	positive	know
Information included						
Format						
Understandability						
Graphics						
Text						
Use of color						

18. Of the two different types of products you just saw for temperature which do you prefer the most?
- o Percent chance (Graphic 1)
- o Chance of non-exceedance (Graphic 2)

19. Why?_____
- o It makes more sense to me
- o The information is more useful
- o The graphic is easier to read and understand
- o Other_____

Graphic 3:



20. What do you think this product is showing?

- ❍ There is a 10% chance that it will rain more than the amounts shown on the map 8 days out
- ❍ There is a 90% chance it will rain more than the amounts shown on the map 8 days out
- ❍ The precipitation values on the map are the forecasted total amounts 8 days out
- ❍ The forecasters are 90% certain it will rain the amounts shown on the map 8 days out
- ❍ I don't know

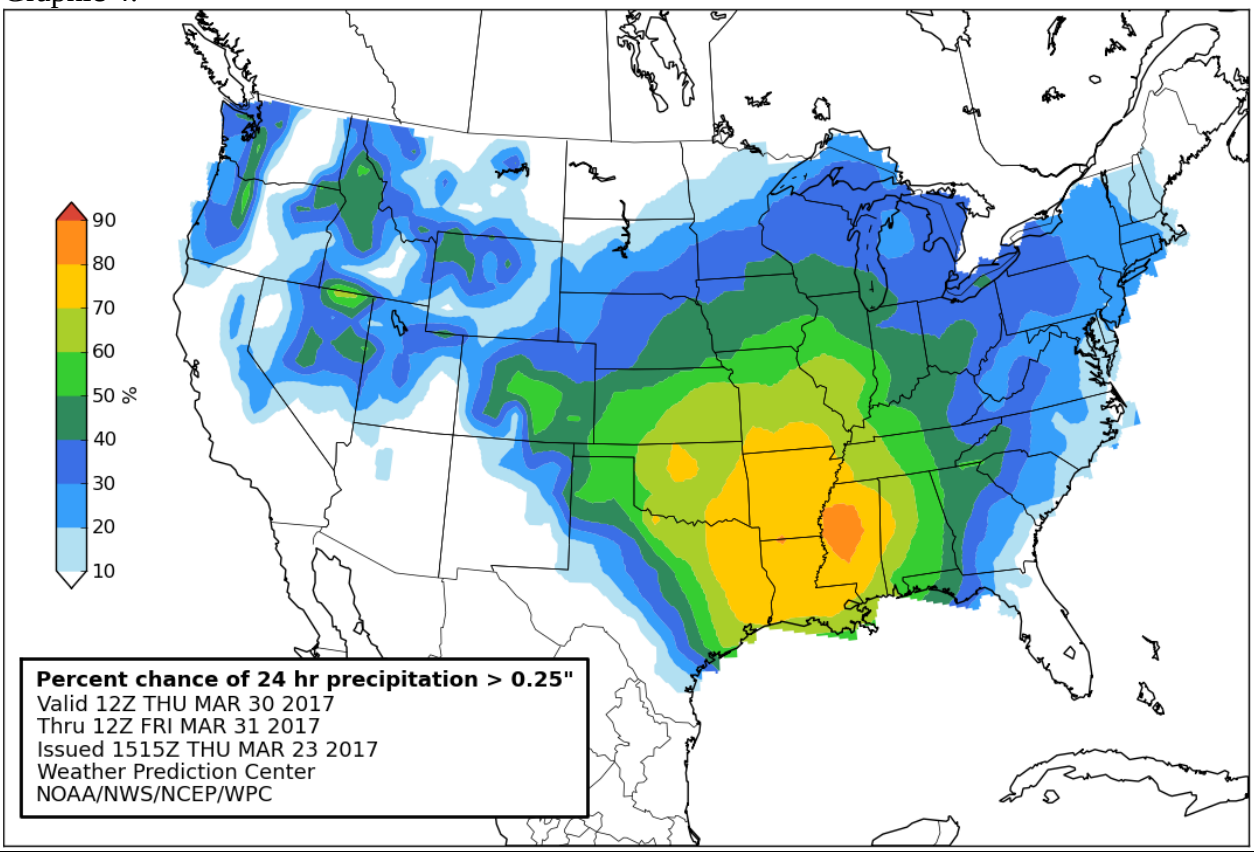
21. How likely would you be to use this product?

- ❍ Very likely
- ❍ Somewhat likely
- ❍ Neither likely nor unlikely
- ❍ Somewhat unlikely
- ❍ Very unlikely

22. Considering the product above, rate the following components:

	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neutral	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Don't know
Information included						
Format						
Understandability						
Graphics						
Text						
Use of color						

Graphic 4:



23. What do you think this product is showing?

- ❍ The amount of confidence the forecasters have that there will be 0.25" of precipitation 8 days out
- ❍ The percentage of the day that it will be raining 8 days out
- ❍ The probability that the precipitation will exceed 0.25" 8 days out
- ❍ The precipitation will be 0.25" 8 days out
- ❍ I don't know

24. How likely would you be to use this product?

- ❍ Very likely
- ❍ Somewhat likely
- ❍ Neither likely nor unlikely
- ❍ Somewhat unlikely
- ❍ Very unlikely

25. Considering the product above, rate the following components:

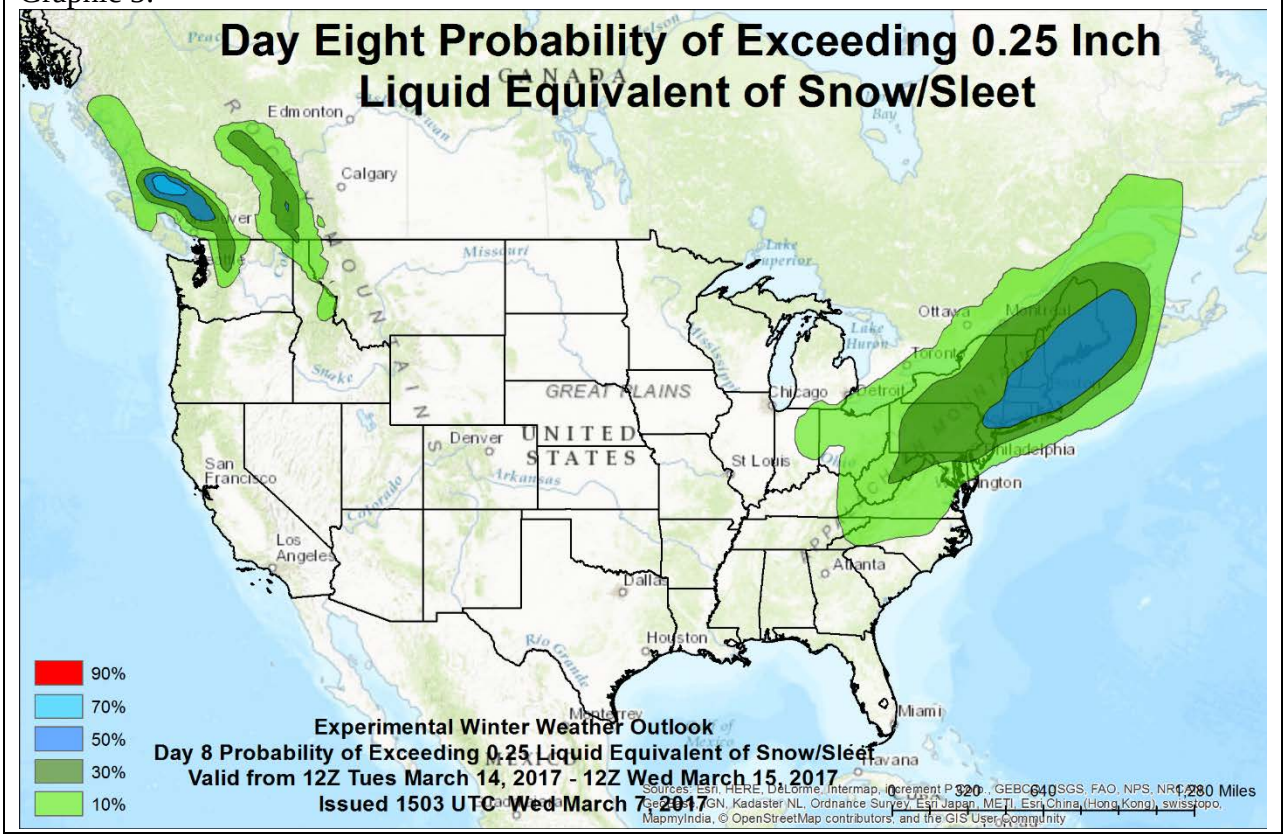
	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neutral	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Don't know
Information included						
Format						
Understandability						
Graphics						

Text						
Use of color						

26. Of the two different types of products you just saw for precipitation which do you prefer the most?
- o Chance of exceedance (Graphic 3)
- o Percent chance (Graphic 4)

27. Why?_____
- o It makes more sense to me
- o The information is more useful
- o The graphic is easier to read and understand
- o Other_____

Graphic 5:



28. What do you think this product is showing?
- ❍ The probability that the amount of snow or sleet, when melted, will exceed 0.25” 8 days from today
- ❍ There will be 0.25” of liquid equivalent of snow 8 days from today
- ❍ The percentage of the day it will snow 8 days from today
- ❍ The amount of certainty the forecasters have that there will be 0.25” liquid equivalent of snow 8 days from today

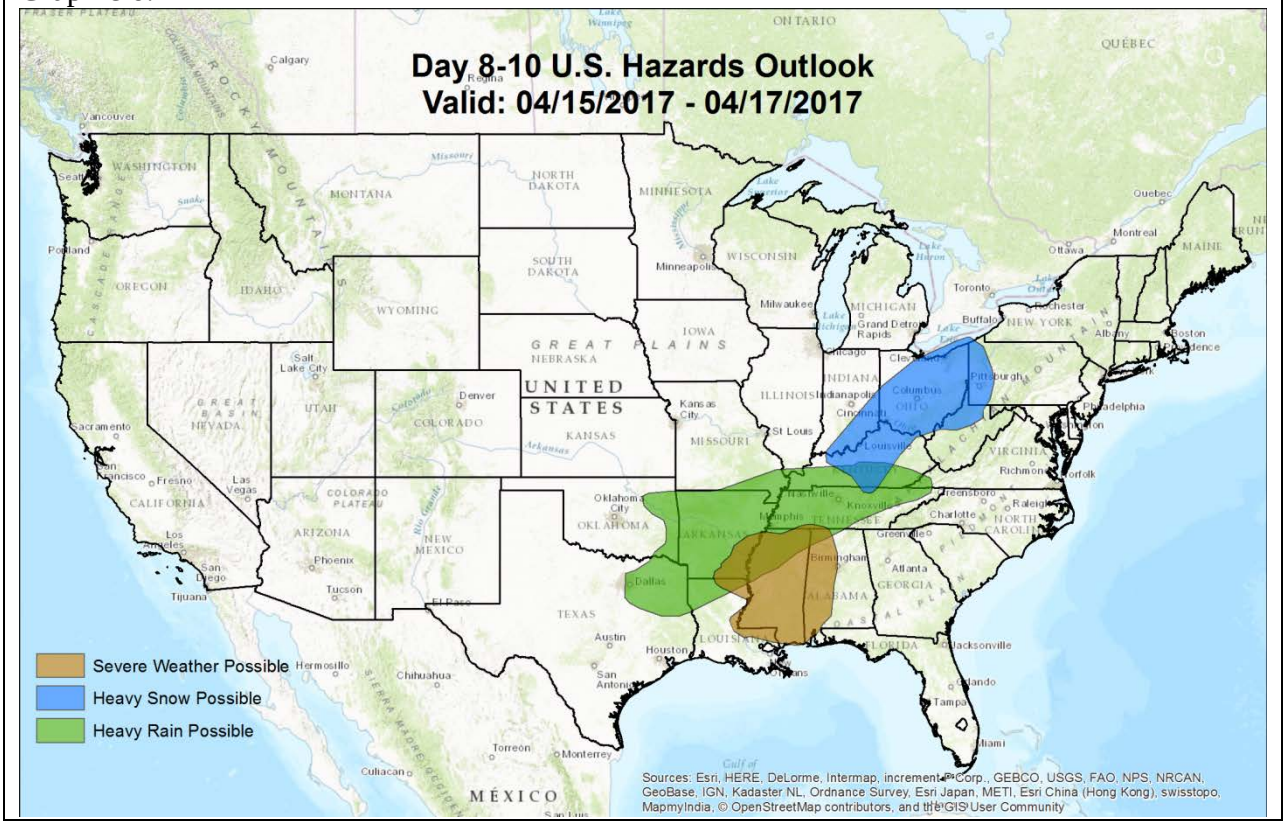
- ❍ I don't know

29. How likely would you be to use this product?
- ❍ Very likely
- ❍ Somewhat likely
- ❍ Neither likely nor unlikely
- ❍ Somewhat unlikely
- ❍ Very unlikely

30. Considering the product above, rate the following components:

	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neutral	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Don't know
Information included						
Format						
Understandability						
Graphics						
Text						
Use of color						

Graphic 6:



31. This Hazards Outlook for 8 to 10 days out helps you make informed decisions.

- ❍ Strongly agree
- ❍ Somewhat agree
- ❍ Neutral
- ❍ Somewhat disagree
- ❍ Strongly disagree

32. The products you saw showed temperature, precipitation, hazards, and winter weather. How interested would you be in using a similar probability product for 8 to 10 days out that showed the following:

Heat index

- o Very interested
- o Somewhat interested
- o Neither interested nor uninterested
- o Somewhat uninterested
- o Very uninterested

Wind Chill

- o Very interested
- o Somewhat interested
- o Neither interested nor uninterested
- o Somewhat uninterested
- o Very uninterested

33. Is there any other type of weather information you would prefer in the 8 to 10 day forecast range?

_____

34. How would you prefer to receive an 8 to 10 day probability forecast?

- o Through social media
- o From local emergency manager
- o Emailed a link
- o Sign up for getting them based on a threshold I set
- o Seek them out on the Weather Prediction Center's website

35. Do you have any additional comments about 8 to 10 day probabilistic Weather Prediction Center products?

_____

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Alaska Region Crab Permits.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0514.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 575.

Average Hours per Response: Annual application for Crab IFQ permit, application for Crab IPQ permit, application to become an eligible crab community organization (ECCO), 150 minutes each; application for an Annual Crab Harvesting Cooperative IFQ Permit, 15 hours; Right of first refusal (ROFR) contracts and waivers, 1 hour each; annual application for Crab Converted CPO QS and CPO IFQ and application for Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) Permit, BSAI Crab Rationalization Program Quota Share Beneficiary Designation Form, 30 minutes; application for Crab IFQ Hired Master Permit, 1 hour; application for Federal crab vessel permit (FCVP) 21 minutes each; application for eligibility to receive crab QS/IFQ or PQS/IPQ by transfer, application for transfer of crab IFQ, application for transfer of crab QS/IFQ to or from an ECCO, Application to transfer crab QS or PQS, application for Annual Exemption from Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab West Region Delivery Requirements, Community Impact Report or IPQ Holder Report (North or South Response Report), 2 hours each; ECCO Annual report and appeal of denial to NMFS decisions, 4 hours each; application for transfer of IFQ between crab harvesting cooperatives, electronic, 5 minutes, non-electronic, 2 hours; application to Transfer Crab IPQ, electronic, 1 hour; non-electronic, 2 hours; CDQ notification of community representative, 5 hours; application for exemption from CR Crab North or South Region Delivery Requirements and North or South Region Delivery Exemption Report, 20 hours each.

Burden Hours: 3,007.

Needs and Uses: This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

The king and Tanner crab fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, Alaska, are managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (FMP). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared the FMP under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended in 2006. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the crab fisheries in the waters off the coast of Alaska under the FMP. Regulations implementing the FMP and all amendments to the Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program) appear at 50 CFR part 680. Program details are found at: *http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/680/default.htm.*

The CR Program balances the interests of several groups who depend on the crab fisheries. The CR Program addresses conservation and management issues associated with the previous derby fishery, reduces bycatch and associated discard mortality, and increases the safety of crab fishermen by ending the race for fish. Share allocations to harvesters and processors, together with incentives to participate in fishery cooperatives, increases efficiencies, provides economic stability, and facilitates compensated reduction of excess capacities in the harvesting and processing sectors. Community interests are protected by Western Alaska Community Development Quota allocations and regional landing and processing requirements, as well as by several community protection measures.

NMFS established the CR Program as a catch share program for nine crab fisheries in the BSAI, and assigned quota share (QS) to persons and processor quota share (PQS) to processors based on their historic participation in one or more of these nine crab fisheries during a specific period. The CR Program components include QS allocation, PQS allocation, individual fishing quota (IFQ) issuance, and individual processing quota (IPQ) issuance, quota transfers, use caps, crab harvesting cooperatives, protections for Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, arbitration system, monitoring, economic data collection, and cost recovery fee collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: Annually and on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

This information collection request may be viewed at *reginfo.gov*. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Dated: May 8, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–09569 Filed 5–10–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Day 8 to 10 Forecast Focus Groups, Interviews and Survey

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 10, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *pracomments@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Kate Quigley, (843) 327–1114 or *kate.quigley@ecs-federal.com.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new collection of information.

The objective of the web-based focus groups, phone interviews, and online survey is to collect information on the current use of NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Prediction Center (WPC) products,

including probabilistic forecasts focusing on the 8 to 10 day timeframe, as well as forecast needs. The web-based focus groups and phone interviews will ask participants to explain their survey responses. This information will help create better 8 to 10 day weather forecast products used by the National Weather Service (NWS) to protect lives and property.

II. Method of Collection

The primary data collection vehicles will be internet-based surveys, web-based focus groups, and telephone interviews. Telephone interviews may be employed to supplement and verify survey responses.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (request for a new information collection).

Affected Public: Members of the public.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500–700 for the survey, 30 for the focus groups, and 20 for the phone interviews.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes for the survey, 3–4 hours for the focus groups, and two hours for the phone interviews.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 350 hours for the survey, 120 hours for the focus groups, and 20 hours for the phone interviews.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 28, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–09518 Filed 5–10–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–KE–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Cost Earnings Survey of Mariana Archipelago Small Boat Fleet.

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Number of Respondents: 280.

Average Hours per Response: 45 minutes.

Burden Hours: 210.

Needs and Uses: This request is for a new information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to collect information about fishing expenses and catch distribution (the share of fish that is sold, retained for home consumption, directed to customary exchange, etc.) for the Mariana Archipelago small boat-based reef fish, bottomfish, and pelagics fisheries with which to conduct economic analyses that will improve fishery management in those fisheries; satisfy NMFS' legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act; and quantify achievement of the performances measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans. Respondents will include small boat fishers in Mariana Archipelago (Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) and their participation in the economic data collection will be voluntary. These data will be used to assess how fishermen will be impacted by and respond to regulations likely to be considered by fishery managers.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: One time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at *reginfo.gov.* Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–09567 Filed 5–10–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Preliminary Case Study Assessing Economic Benefits of Marine Debris Reduction.

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Number of Respondents: 13,864.

Average Hours per Response: Intercept survey, 4–10 minutes; mail survey, 10 minutes.

Burden Hours: 881.

Needs and Uses: This request is for a new information collection.

The National Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration, Marine Debris Program is sponsoring this data collection. The Marine Debris Program was created under the 2006 ''Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act'' (33 U.S.C. 1951 *et seq.*) which was reauthorized in 2012 as the ''Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2012'' (H.R. 1171) as part of the Coast Guard Maritime Transportation Act (H.R. 2838). Among other activities, the bill requires NOAA ''. . . to address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the United States economy . . .'' To that aim, the proposed data collection will support the goals of a larger study whose purpose is to develop a regional economic model to estimate the value to