**STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION:**

***Stewardship Investments:***

Stewardship investments are substantial investments made by the federal government for the benefit of the Nation, but are not physical assets owned by the federal government. Though treated as expenses when incurred to determine the Department’s Net Cost of Operations, these items merit special treatment so that users of federal financial reports know the extent of investments that are made for the long-term benefit of the Nation.

***Investments in Non-federal Physical Property:***

Non-federal physical property investments are expenses included in the Department’s Net Cost of Operations for the purchase, construction, or major renovation of physical property owned by state and local governments. Based on a review of the Department’s programs, NOAA has significant investments in non-federal physical property.

NOAA’s investments in non-federal physical property for FY 2023 and FY 2024 were as follows (in millions):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **FY 2024** | **FY 2023** | **Total** |
| National Estuarine Research Reserves PAC | $ 4.5 | $2.3 | **$ 6.8** |
| Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| **Total** | **$ 4.5** | **$2.3** | **$ 6.8** |

*Please explain any significant increase or decrease in investments in Non-federal physical property between FY 2023 and FY 2024.*

**National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR):** NERR system consists of 30 estuarine reserves protected by federal, state, and local partnerships that work to preserve and protect the Nation’s estuaries. The reserves were created with the passage of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. NERRs are state-operated and managed in cooperation with NOAA. NOAA’s investments in non-federal physical property are for the acquisition of lands and development or construction of facilities, auxiliary structures, and public access routes for any NERR site.

**Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program:** This program was established under the Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act of 2002, for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses. The investments in non-federal physical property include matching grants awarded to state and local governments for land acquisition in coastal and estuarine areas.

***Investments in Human Capital:***

These investments are for education and training programs that are intended to increase or maintain national economic productive capacity and produce outputs and outcomes that provide evidence of the constant or increasing national productive capacity. These investments exclude education and training expenses for federal civilian and military personnel. The most significant investments in human capital are by NOAA.

The following table summarizes NOAA’s investments in human capital for FY 2023 and FY 2024 (in millions):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY 2024** | **FY 2023** | **Total** |
| Educational Partnership Program | $ 0.0 | $20.2 | **$ 20.2** |
| Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program | 0.0 | 14.8 | **14.8** |
| NERR Margaret Davidson Fellowship Program | 1.2 | 1.4 | **2.6** |
| National Sea Grant College Program | 0.0 | 0 | **0** |
| Other Programs | 0.0 | 0 | **0** |
| **Total** | **$ 1.2** | **$ 36.4** | **$ 37.6** |

*Please explain any significant increase or decrease in investments in human capital between FY 2023 and FY 2024.*

**Educational Partnership Program:**  The NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions provides financial assistance through competitive processes to minority serving institutions that support research and training of students in NOAA related sciences, through Cooperative Science Centers. The program’s goals include (1) increase the number of trained and graduated students, from underrepresented communities in science and technology, directly aligned with NOAA’s mission; and (2) increase collaborative research efforts among NOAA scientists with researchers and students at minority serving academic institutions.

**Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program:** This program was established in 2005 to (1) increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education, and foster multidisciplinary training opportunities; (2) increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy; (3) recruit and prepare students for public service careers with NOAA and other agencies at the federal, state, and local levels of government; and (4) recruit and prepare students for careers as teachers and educators in oceanic and atmospheric science and to improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

**National Estuarine Research Reserve Margaret Davidson Fellowship Program:** This program supports activities designed to increase public awareness of estuary issues, provide information to improve management decisions in estuarine areas, and train graduate students in estuarine science. This Fellowship Program places one graduate student at each of the nation’s 30 national estuarine research reserves. Through a research project, fellows will address a key coastal management question to help scientists and communities understand coastal challenges that may influence future policy and management strategies.

**National Sea Grant College Program:** This program works to create and maintain a healthy coastal environment and economy. The Sea Grant network consists of a federal/university partnership between NOAA and 34 university-based programs in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The Knauss Fellowship Program offers qualified masters and doctoral students the opportunity to spend a year working on marine and Great Lakes policy issues with the Executive and Legislative branches of the federal government. There is also a Graduate Fellowship Program for Ph.D. candidates in the specialized areas of population dynamics and marine resource economics.

***Investments in Research and Development (R&D):***

Investments in R&D are expenses that are included in the Department’s Net Cost of Operations. The investments are divided into three categories:

* Basic Research, the systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and observable facts without specific applications toward processes or products in mind;
* Applied Research, the systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding necessary for determining the means by which a recognized or specific need may be met; and
* Development, the systematic use of the knowledge and understanding gained from research for the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including the design and development of prototypes and processes.

The investments are made with the expectation of maintaining or increasing national economic productive capacity, or yielding other future economic or societal benefits. Based on a review of the Department’s programs, NOAA makes significant investments in R&D.

NOAA’s R&D investments by program from FY 2020 through FY 2024 were as follows (in millions):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **2024**  **Basic** | | **2024**  **Applied** | | **2024**  **Develop-ment** | | **2024 Total** | | **2023** | **2022** | | **2021** | **2020** | | **Total** | |
| Environmental and Climate | $0.0 | $0.0 | | $0.0 | | $0.0 | | $833.9 | | | $655.9 | $566.1 | | $531.2 | | $2,587.10 |
| Fisheries | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 64.8 | | | 75.5 | 73.5 | | 68.7 | | 282.5 |
| Weather Service | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 63.8 | | | 46.5 | 19.7 | | 18.3 | | 148.3 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 172.1 | | | 153.5 | 128.5 | | 131.3 | | 585.40 |
| **Totals** | **$0.0** | **$0.0** | | **$0.0** | | **$0.0** | | **$1,134.6** | | | **$931.4** | **$787.8** | | **$749.5** | | **$3,603.30** |

*Please explain any significant increase or decrease in R&D investments between FY 2023 and FY 2024.*

Here is a brief description of the major R&D programs of NOAA:

**Environmental and Climate:** The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) is NOAA’s primary R&D office. This office conducts research in three major areas: climate research, weather and air quality research; and ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research. NOAA’s research laboratories, Climate Program Office, and research partners conduct wide-ranging research into complex climate systems, including the exploration and investigation of ocean habitats and resources. NOAA’s research organizations conduct applied research to predict severe weather events and hazardous conditions that threaten life, property, and economic well-being.

**Fisheries:** NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) supports sustainable fisheries and protected resources management included in the areas of improving aquaculture, improving fishery data collection and assessment, protected species science, techniques for reducing bycatch and other adverse impacts, adapting to climate change and other long term ecosystem change, and socio-economic research. Other examples of R&D are process-oriented studies to understand mechanisms that control reproductive success, population genetics and stock structure, animal behavior, biophysical modeling, and the functional value of habitat.

**Weather Service:** The National Weather Service (NWS) conducts applied research and development to support integrated water prediction. A primary goal is to expand and accelerate critical weather forecasting research to operation through accelerated development and implementation of current global weather prediction models, improved data assimilation techniques, and improved software architecture and system engineering.

**Other Programs:** As a national lead for coastal stewardship, NOAA’s National Ocean Service (NOS) supports research and development on the cartographic, hydrographic and oceanographic sciences that underpin mapping, observing, and modeling efforts. This R&D leads to new technologies, models, and products and tools. NOAA’s National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR) accelerates the transfer of satellite observations of land, atmosphere, ocean, and climate from scientific R&D into routine operations, enabling NOAA to offer state-of-the-art data, products, and services to decision-makers.

**STEWARDSHIP PROPERTY, PLANT, and EQUIPMENT (*Footnote Disclosure*)**

Preservation of stewardship property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) promotes the Department’s mission of providing effective management and monitoring of our Nation’s resources and assets to support both environmental and economic health. To ensure that these resources are preserved and sustained for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations, Congress has enacted legislation to assist in asset management. Additionally, the Department conducts its mission in ways that minimize the environmental impacts, conserve natural and cultural resources, and provide effective stewardship of the environment.

***Stewardship National Marine Sanctuaries, Marine National Monuments, Conservation Area, Rookeries, and Habitat Blueprint***

Written policy statements or permit guidelines for the National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments have been developed for the areas of acoustic impacts, artificial reefs, climate change, invasive species, and marine debris. The Office of Marine National Sanctuaries answers the most frequently asked questions related to alternative energy and oil and gas policy decisions for national marine sanctuaries. There were no stewardship asset withdrawals for this subcategory in FY 2024.

NOAA maintains the following stewardship assets under this subcategory:

**National Marine Sanctuaries:** In 1972, Congress passed the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (Act) in response to a growing awareness of the intrinsic environmental and cultural value of coastal waters. The Act authorized the Secretary of Commerce to designate special nationally-significant areas of the marine environment as national marine sanctuaries.

These protected waters provide a secure habitat for species close to extinction, and also protect historically significant shipwrecks and prehistoric artifacts. National marine sanctuaries are also used for recreation (e.g., boating, diving, and sport fishing), and support valuable commercial industries such as fishing and kelp harvesting. As of March 31, 2024, 15 National Marine

Sanctuaries, which include both coastal and offshore areas, have been designated, as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Protected Area Square Miles |
| Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary | 1,471 |
| Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary | 1,286 |
| Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary | 3,803 |
| Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary | 160 |
| Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary | 22 |
| Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary | 3,295 |
| Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary | 1,366 |
| Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary | 18 |
| Monitor National Marine Sanctuary | 1 |
| Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary | 6,094 |
| National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa | 13,581 |
| Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary | 3,189 |
| Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary | 846 |
| Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary | 4,300 |
| Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary | 962 |
| Total | **40,394** |

**Marine National Monuments:** The Marine National Monuments were created to protect the abundant and diverse coral, fish, and seabird populations; to facilitate exploration and scientific research; and to promote public education regarding the value of these national treasures. The establishment of the Monuments provides the opportunity to protect areas of outstanding scientific, cultural, conservation, and aesthetic value, and provide for the long-term preservation of these natural and cultural legacies. There are currently five Marine National Monuments, as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Protected Area Square Miles |
| Marianas Trench Marine National Monument | 95,216 |
| Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument | 4,913 |
| Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument | 495,189 |
| Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | 582,578 |
| Rose Atoll Marine National Monument | 13,436 |
| Total | **1,191,332** |

Marine National Monuments are co-managed by NOAA and the Department of Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with state and territorial agencies. The following legislation provides the authority for NOAA and USFWS to manage, monitor and/or evaluate marine national monuments at the federal level. This list is not inclusive.

* Antiquities Act (1906): Authorizes the President to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.
* Endangered Species Act (1973): A 1973 Federal law, amended in 1978 and 1982, to protect troubled species from extinction. USFSW decided whether to list species as threatened or endangered. Federal agencies must avoid jeopardy to and aid the recovery of listed species. Similar responsibilities apply to non-federal entities.
* Fish And Wildlife Coordination Act (1934): Provides the basic authority for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and USFWS's involvement in evaluating impacts to fish and wildlife from proposed water resource development projects. It requires that fish and wildlife resources receive equal consideration to other project features. It also requires that federal agencies that construct, license, or permit water resource development projects must first consult with the USFWS and NMFS and state fish and wildlife agencies regarding the impacts on fish and wildlife resources and measures to mitigate these impacts.
* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1976; amended 2006): Calls for assessment and consideration of ecological, economic, and social impacts of fishing regulations on fishery participants and fishing communities in marine fishery management plans.
* Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972): Established to protect and manage marine mammals and their products (e.g., the use of hides and meat). The primary authority for implementing the act belongs to the NMFS and USFW. The Act prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, which is defined as "to harass, hunt, capture or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill any marine mammal." The term "harassment" is further defined as "any act of pursuit, torment or annoyance which has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild or has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."

**Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area:** On July 28, 2006, NOAA formally established the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area in Alaska, which covers nearly 370 thousand square miles and may harbor among the highest diversity of deep-water corals in the world. The conservation area established a network of fishing closures in the Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska, and protects habitat for deep-water corals and other sensitive features that are slow to recover once disturbed by fishing gear or other activities.

To minimize the effects of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat, and more specifically to address concerns about the impacts of bottom trawling on benthic habitat (particularly on coral communities) in the Aleutian Islands, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council took action to prohibit all bottom trawling in the Aleutians, except in small discrete “open” areas. Over 95% of the management area is closed to bottom trawling. Additionally, six Habitat Conservation Zones with especially high density coral and sponge habitat were closed to all bottom-contact fishing gear (longlines, pots, trawls). To improve monitoring and enforcement of the Aleutian Island closures, a vessel monitoring system is required for all fishing vessels in the Aleutian management area.  NMFS implements this closure area through the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area and in Federal regulations at 50 USC 679.22(a)(14), *Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area*.

**NOAA Habitat Blueprint:** NOAA has a responsibility for protecting habitat for fish, threatened and endangered species, marine mammals, and other natural resources within the coastal zone. Recognizing the need for more concerted efforts to conserve, protect, and restore habitat, NOAA developed the NOAA Habitat Blueprint to build on existing programs, prioritize its activities, and guide its future actions. This is being accomplished by creating Habitat Focus Areas. There are currently 11 Habitat Focus Areas, as follows:

* Biscayne Bay, FL
* Choptank River Watershed, MD/DE
* Kachemak Bay, AK
* Manell-GeusWatershed, GU
* Middle Peninsula, VA
* Muskegon Lake, MI
* Northeast Reserves and Culebra Island, PR
* Penobscot River Watershed, ME
* Russian River Watershed, CA
* St. Louis River Estuary, MN/WI
* West Hawaii, HI

Work at these Habitat Focus Areas are completed via grant proposals that take a landscape-scale or watershed approach to implementing on the ground conservation efforts. Proposals must align with specific Habitat Focus Areas priorities. Project types, including habitat restoration/ conservation, science/research, long-term monitoring, technology/tool development, and outreach/education, will vary by Habitat Focus Area. All projects will support NOAA’s core missions of conserving coastal and marine habitats to support sustainable fisheries, protected resources, and coastal community resilience. Collaboration is encouraged with conservation partners and communities.

**Stewardship Land**:

Per federal accounting standards, stewardship land is land and land rightsowned by the federal government but not acquired for or in connection withitems of General PP&E. Land is the solid part of the surface of the Earth. Excluded from the definition of land are the natural resources (that is, depletable resources such as mineral deposits and petroleum; renewable resources such as timber, and the outer-continental shelf resources) related to land.

NOAA’s stewardship land supports its mission by serving as sites for NOAA’s operations, including for facilities and offices, observatories, laboratories, and rookeries.

The site for the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service’s (NESDIS) Office of Satellite and Product Operations Gilmore Creek in Fairbanks AK, which is the site of the Fairbanks Command and Data Acquisition (CDA) Station (campus) is NOAA’s primary satellite ground station for downloading data from and sending commands to polar orbiting satellites. The CDA Station houses a number of buildings and has nine antennas in active use. It is one of the busiest and most capable satellite ground stations in the world. In addition to being the Nation’s premier civilian ground station in support of polar orbiting satellites, the CDA Station also acts as a backup in support of NOAA’s primary geostationary satellite ground station, the Wallops CDA Station on Wallops Island on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The CDA Station provides backup support for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites orbiting in the West position.

There are five rookeries in St. Paul, AK along with the site for the National Weather Service (NWS) offices in St. Paul along with various land easements to access the rookeries and the St. Paul Airport.

In addition, in St. George, AK, there is land housing the National Marine Fisheries support buildings, known as the Cottage and the Seal Skin Processing Plant (due to their uses prior to NOAA’s operational uses), and eight rookeries along with various land easements to access the rookeries.

These rookeries are specific areas where Northern fur seals gather each year to mate and raise young and are protected by regulation under the Fur Seal Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In 1911, the Fur Seal Treaty created an international prohibition on hunting fur seals at sea and shared responsibility among the treaty nations for commercial harvests on land. In 1984, the United States ended commercial harvest of northern fur seals on the Pribilof Islands. Subsistence use is currently co-managed by NOAA Fisheries and the tribal governments of St. Paul and St. George.

The following sites are additional stewardship land items:

* Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Observatory in Utqiaġvik (Barrow), AK
* NWS Weather Service Offices (WSO) in Utqiaġvik (Barrow), AK
* OAR Lava Diversion Barrier site and OAR Observatory site in Volcano, HI
* National Ocean Service Laboratory site in Seldovia (Kasitsna Bay), AK
* NMFS Subport Operations Base Facility site in Juneau, AK
* NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory site in Juneau (Auke Bay/Cake), AK
* NWS Tsunami Warning Center site and housing site in Palmer, AK

NOAA’s real property community is responsible for reporting stewardship land and non-collection type heritage assets (including multi-use heritage assets). NOAA’s Real Property Management Division (RPMD) reports Stewardship PP&E if the property contains a real property interest. The following highlights the specific roles and responsibilities of RPMD:

* Maintain a list of stewardship land and non-collection type heritage assets;
* Ensure that stewardship land and non-collection type heritage assets are listed as such in the real property inventory system;
* Include a requirement for confirmation of stewardship land or non-collection type heritage asset status and whether any Line/Staff Office(s) believes that a real property item should be a stewardship land or heritage asset in its annual real property inventory testing; and
* Consult with the NOAA Federal Preservation Officer and the relevant Line/Staff Office(s) regarding any additions to the real property inventory to ensure that the stewardship land or heritage or non-heritage asset status is correctly identified, including if a National Historic Preservation Act compliant evaluation is required.

# NOAA utilizes 41 U.S.C., *Public Contracts*, Section 6301, *Authorization Requirement*, which states that the federal government may not acquire land unless the contract or purchase is authorized by law or is under an appropriation adequate to its fulfillment. NOAA also follows the requirements under 41 CFR, *Public Contracts and Property Management*, Subtitle C Part 102-73, *Real Estate Acquisition*. NOAA acquires land only for specific mission needs that cannot be met by its existing inventory and only if properly authorized. For acquiring land via transfer in from other federal entities, including from GSA, NOAA follows the federal procedures in 41 CFR *Public Contracts and Property* Management, Subtitle C, Part 102-74, *Real Property* Disposal, Transfers bisection (102-75.175 through 102-75.235).

# NOAA maintains and uses its land in support of the mission that land serves. Its maintenance, such as landscaping, snow removal, pest control, etc. are dependent on the use and location of the particular parcel of land. NOAA’s policy is for all personnel and affiliates to conduct their activities in a manner that complies with all applicable environmental requires and to cooperate with federal agencies (including the Environmental Protection Agency), as well as state, interstate, and local agencies in the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution. (NOAA Administrative Order 116-17A, *NOAA Environmental Compliance Program*) NOAA disposes of land based on 41 CFR, Subtitle C Part 102-75, *Real Property Disposal*. In special cases, specific legislation may also provide disposal authority for and direct the disposal of a particular location/site.

***Heritage Assets:***

Per federal accounting standards, heritage assets are unique for their historical or natural significance, cultural, educational, or artistic importance, or significant architectural characteristics. The Department generally expects that these assets will be preserved indefinitely. In cases where a heritage asset also has a practical and predominant use for general federal government operations, the asset is considered a multi-use heritage asset. The cost of acquisition, improvement, reconstruction or renovation of a multi-use heritage asset is capitalized as General PP&E and is depreciated over its estimated useful life.

**Non-Collection-Type Heritage Assets:**

Non-collection-type heritage Assets maintained by NOAA currently include the following; all of which are multi-use heritage assets:

* National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Galveston Laboratory Buildings (5) in Galveston, TX;
* NMFS St. George Cottage (building) in St. George, AK;
* NMFS St. George Seal Skin Processing Plant (building) in St. George, AK;
* National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services (NESDIS) Buildings (6) in Gilmore Creek, Fairbanks, AK;
* Northwest Fisheries Science Center (building) in Seattle, WA;
* Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Air Resources Lab (building) in Oak Ridge, TN;
* OAR Observatory Campus (building) in Mauna Loa, HI
* OAR Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory/Lake Michigan Field Station (building) in Muskegon, MI; and
* Western Regional Center Hangars (2) at the Water Resource Center in Seattle, WA (buildings).

For FY 2024, there have been \_\_ withdrawals of NOAA’s non-collection-type heritage assets. Typically, the methods of withdrawal may include demolition, disposal, transfer, sale, and reassessment of heritage asset criteria due to a review(s) of additional or new information or documentation.

For policies and procedures for NOAA's real property community regarding non-collection type heritage assets, see the Land subsection.

**Collection-type Heritage Assets:**

NOAA has established policies, procedures, and standards for the preservation, security, handling, storage, and display of NOAA personal property heritage assets to ensure the proper care and handling of these assets under its control or jurisdiction.  NOAA maintains a nationwide inventory of personal property heritage assets, ensuring that they are identified and recorded in the Personal Property Heritage Asset Accountability System.  Each loan of NOAA personal property heritage assets, including assigning values and inventory numbers, and reporting the current condition of heritage assets, is tracked and updated and the feasibility of new asset loans is determined.  In addition, NOAA collects personal property heritage assets of historic, cultural, artistic, or education significance to NOAA.

NOAA’s historical artifacts are designated collection-type heritage assets if they help illustrate the social, educational, and cultural heritage of NOAA and its predecessor agencies (Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Fish Commission, the Weather Bureau, the Institutes for Environmental Research, the Environmental Science Services Administration, etc.). These artifacts include, but are not limited to: books, journals, publications, photographs, motion pictures, manuscripts, records, nautical chart plates, bells, gyrocompasses, brass citations, flags, pennants, chronometers, ship seals, clocks, compasses, fittings, miscellaneous ship fragments, lithographic plates, barometers, rain gauges, and any items that represent the uniqueness of the mission of NOAA and its predecessor agencies. NOAA’s Logistics Office continually conducts inventories of NOAA’s collection-type heritage assets.

For FY 2024, there have been \_\_\_ withdrawals of NOAA’s collection-type heritage assets. Typically, the methods of withdrawal may include assets being destroyed, lost, missing, stolen, and donated/transferred to an entity outside of NOAA. The 4 assets were withdrawn because they did not meet the Heritage criteria.

NOAA’s collection-type heritage assets include the following:

**NOAA Central Library:** Many of NOAA’s heritage assets are maintained by the NOAA Central Library. The holdings include artifacts, photographs, documents, motion pictures, and other items.

**Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection:** The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) is jointly managed by NOAA and the State of Michigan to protect and interpret a nationally significant collection of shipwrecks and other maritime heritage resources.

In 2004, TBNMS established an agreement with the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library to jointly manage this collection. Amassed over a period of more than 40 years by historian C. Patrick Labadie, the collection includes information about such diverse subjects as Great Lakes ports and waterways, docks, cargoes, ships, shipbuilders, owners and fleets, machinery and rigging, notable maritime personalities, and shipwrecks. Special features of the collection are extensive collections of data cards listing most of the ships on the Great Lakes before 1900, a roster of some 15,000 vessels complete with descriptive data and highlights of the ships’ careers and their ultimate losses, and ship photograph negatives of 19th and 20th century Great Lakes ships. The collection also includes copies of vessel ownership documents, contemporary ship photographs, books, and other items documenting the Great Lakes history.

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Collection:** The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) collection-type heritage assets include artifacts from shipwreck and wrecking events occurring in the Florida Keys over a 500-year period. FKNMS is an abundant mixture of natural and cultural, historic resources.

The following table summarizes NOAA’s Collection-type Heritage Assets activity and balances, in actual quantities.

| **Collection-type Heritage Assets** | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Entity** | | **Description of Assets** | **Custodial Area #** | **Quantity of**  **Items Held**  **10/01/2023** | **FY 2024 Additions** | **FY 2024 Withdrawals** | **Quantity of**  **Items Held**  **03/31/2024** |
| NOAA Central Library | | | | | | | |
|  | Collections of Photographs and Motion Pictures | Photographs and motion pictures | 54508N000 | 0 | N/A1 | N/A1 | 0 |
|  | Other items at NOAA Central Library | Artifacts, documents, and other items | 54508N000 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| National Ocean Service – Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection | | Data cards, photograph negatives, document copies, photographs, books, and other items | 5410ZE228 | 106,254 | 0 | 0 | 106,254 |
| Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary | | Artifacts | 5410ZE221 | 253 | 0 | 0 | 253 |
| Others | | Artifacts, artwork, books, films, instruments, maps, and records | All others | 3,162 | 0 | 0 | 3,162 |
| **Total** | |  |  | **109,696** | **0** | **4** | **109,696** |
| 1 N/A - Not applicable; this category is reported as one collection. | | | | | | | |

**LAND and LAND RIGHTS (Required Supplementary Information):**

The Department has complied with the requirements of FASAB SFFAS 59, Accounting and Reporting of Government Land. This requirement focuses on ensuring that federal land holding agencies report the consistent accounting treatment and reporting of federal land. This standard has established guidance for federal agencies to follow during the implementation and execution periods. Per federal accounting standards, land is the solid part of the surface of the Earth. Excluded from the definition of land are the natural resources (that is, depletable resources such as mineral deposits and petroleum; renewable resources such as timber, and the outer-continental shelf resources) related to land.

Land rights are interests and privileges held by the entity in land owned by others, such as leaseholds, easements, water and water power rights, diversion rights, submersion rights, rights-of-way, mineral rights, and other like interests in land. Land rights such as easements or rights-of-way that are for an unspecified period of time or unlimited duration are considered permanent land rights. Temporary land rights are those land rights that are for a specified period of time or limited duration.

To improve the comparability of reporting federal land and land rights and the uniformity of disclosures, three subcategories predicated on land use for both General PP&E land and stewardship land are utilized: (1) commercial use land; (2) operational land; and (3) conservation and preservation land.

NOAA has land held and permanent land rights in General PP&E category and land held in the Stewardship category. NOAA does not have any temporary land rights.

***General PP&E Land and Permanent Land Rights:***

NOAA’s General PP&E land and permanent land rights support its mission by serving as sites on which it locates its facilities, including office, research, laboratory, and other facilities. NOAA’s General PP&E land also supports NOAA’s mission by allowing for equipment and instruments to be located at those sites, including for observation of weather conditions and water levels, transmission of data and weather radio broadcasts, and surveying of fish and other aquatic wildlife. NOAA’s permanent land rights are easements and rights-of-way and are usually non-exclusive easements. Many of these permanent land rights provide access to NOAA land sites or allow for utilities for those sites.

NOAA’s General PP&E land held primarily consists of operational land for its facilities with the largest parcels located in Platteville, CO; Fairbanks, AK; and Sterling, VA, and also includes operational land for facilities in many states in the United States. Many locations house NOAA’s Weather Forecast Offices and towers for NOAA weather radar and antennas. The Platteville land is for the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research’s (Earth System Research Laboratories), Chemical Sciences Laboratory. The Fairbanks land consists of multiple tracts and parcels for the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service’s operations. The Sterling land is for the National Weather Service Sterling Field Support Center and Weather Forecast Office campus site.

NOAA utilizes 41 U.S.C., *Public Contracts*, Section 6301, *Authorization Requirement*, which states that the federal governmental may not acquire land unless the contract or purchase is authorized by law or is under an appropriation adequate to its fulfillment. NOAA also follows the requirements under 41 CFR, *Public Contracts and Property Management*, Subtitle C, Part 102-73, *Real Estate Acquisition*, including for acquiring land via purchase or condemnation (Subpart C, Acquisition by Purchase or Condemnation). NOAA acquires land only for specific mission needs that cannot be met by its existing inventory and only if properly authorized. For acquiring land via transfers in from other federal entities, including from GSA, NOAA follows the federal procedures in 41 *CFR Public Contracts and Property Management*, Subtitle C, Part 102-75 *Real Property Disposal*, Transfers subsection (102-75.175 through 102-75.235).

NOAA maintains and uses its land in support of the mission that land serves. Its maintenance, such as landscaping, snow removal, and pest control are dependent on the use and location of the particular parcel of land. NOAA conducts its mission in ways that minimize environmental impacts, conserve natural and cultural resources, and provide effective stewardship of the environment.

NOAA’s policy is for all personnel and affiliates to conduct their activities in a manner that complies with all applicable environmental requirements and to cooperate with federal agencies (including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)), as well as state, interstate, and local agencies in the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution. (NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-17A: NOAA Environmental Compliance Program). NOAA disposes of land based on 41 CFR, Subtitle C, Part 102-75, *Real Property Disposal*. In special cases, specific legislation may also provide disposal authority for and direct the disposal of a particular loction/site.

The following table summarizes NOAA’s land and permanent land rights under the General PP&E category as of October 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **General PP&E Land and Permanent Land Rights Estimated Number of Acres by Predominant Use** | | | |
|  |  | ***Operational*** | ***Total Estimated***  ***Number of Acres*** |
| **Land Held** | |  |  |
|  | Beginning Balance, October 1, 2023 | 2,144 | 2,144 |
|  | Ending Balance, March 31, 2024 | 2,144 | 2,144 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Land Held for Disposal or Exchange** | |  |  |
|  | Beginning Balance, October 1, 2023 | 4 | 4 |
|  | Ending Balance, March 31, 2024 | 4 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Permanent Land Rights** | |  |  |
|  | Beginning Balance, October 1, 2023 | 128 | 128 |
|  | Ending Balance, March 31, 2024 | 124 | 124 |

***Stewardship Land:***

NOAA’s stewardship land supports its mission by serving as sites for NOAA’s operations, including for facilities and offices, observatories, laboratories, and rookeries. NOAA’s stewardship land held primarily consists of operational land in Fairbanks, AK for the site of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service’s (NESDIS) Offices of Satellite and Product Operations Gilmore Creek. The Fairbanks Command and Data Acquisition Station (campus) is NOAA’s primary satellite ground station for downloading data from and sending commands to polar orbiting satellites. NOAA’s stewardship land under the conservation and preservation category includes five rookeries in St. Paul, AK and eight rookeries in St. George, AK.

See the *Stewardship Property, Plant, and Equipment* note to the financial statements for more information on the composition of NOAA’s stewardship land and for information on NOAA’s real property community policies and procedures for stewardship land.

The following table summarizes NOAA’s land under the Stewardship category as of October 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Stewardship Land Estimated Number of Acres by Predominant Use** | | | |
|  |  | | ***Operational*** | ***Conservation*** | ***Total Estimated***  ***Number of Acres*** |
| **Land Held** | | |  |  |  |
|  | Beginning Balance, October 1, 2023 | | 2,030 | 7,961 | 9,991 |
|  | Ending Balance, March 31, 2024 | | 2,030 | 7,961 | 9,991 |