

Help Stop the FCC From Taking Away Amateur Radio Spectrum

Two current FCC proposals aim to take away amateur privileges in two of our bands.

- FCC WT Docket 19-348 proposes to remove amateur radio privileges in the 3.3-3.55 GHz band and prepare that band for future shared use between commercial wireless services and federal users.
- FCC WT Docket 19-138 proposes to re-purpose the lower 45 megahertz of the 5.9 GHz band (5.850-5.895 GHz) for unlicensed operations to support high-throughput broadband applications, and to continue to dedicate spectrum in the upper 30 MHz of the 5.9 GHz band (5.895-5.925 GHz) to support ITS needs for transportation and vehicle safety-related communications.

Amateur radio operators, groups, and clubs around the country have spent thousands of dollars and countless hours of volunteer time and money to modify off-the-shelf wifi distribution equipment to use on these bands to support the agencies they serve. These agencies include local and county public service agencies, emergency operation centers, The Red Cross, FEMA, The National Weather Service, among others.

Services provided to these agencies by these amateur radio groups include storm spotting weather cameras, emergency backup Internet connections, VoIP services through phones and repeaters, intranet chat and file transfer, automatic position reporting services, weather data from personal weather stations, and more.

Removing the capabilities of amateurs to operate on these bands will severely hamper the ability of hams to provide these services to the agencies they serve, and in many cases the systems will have to cease to operate altogether, as no inexpensive, easily modifiable equipment exists for operation in other parts of the spectrum. Losing these two bands will also hurt amateur radio in general by discouraging new, younger individuals with the computer skills to utilize these bands from even entering the amateur service.

It is therefore proposed that the FCC seek spectrum in other areas, for example 3.1-3.3 GHz instead of their proposed 3.3-3.55 GHz for the proposed commercial interests.

Your signature, along with your amateur radio call sign, will help in the fight to prevent our loss of this radio spectrum.