The Office of Spectrum Management (OSM) manages the use of the radio frequency spectrum by the U.S. government, balancing the needs of federal operations with state and local governments and the private sector. OSM’s goal is to make available and facilitate spectrum sharing as the need for additional commercial spectrum increases.

OSM receives advice and assistance from the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC), the Policy and Plans Steering Group (PPSG), and the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (CSMAC).

OSM carries out its responsibilities by:

- Assigning frequencies to federal agencies.
- Reviewing federal agencies' new telecommunications systems and certifying that spectrum will be available.
- Establishing regulations governing federal spectrum use.
- Preparing for and participating in international radio treaty conferences.
- Coordinating plans for emergency readiness activities.
- Performing spectrum technical analyses.
- Developing automated computer capabilities needed to carry out its spectrum management activities.
- Developing innovative spectrum sharing mechanisms.

Making Spectrum Available

NTIA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), industry, and stakeholders, is dedicated to meeting the nation’s growing demand for additional spectrum for wireless technologies, which includes establishing an enduring process to identify and prioritize bands for new opportunities and find additional opportunities to repurpose spectrum through the use of innovative spectrum sharing mechanisms.

NTIA, with other federal agencies, is currently implementing the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and the MOBILE NOW Act of 2018, along with the October 2018 Presidential Memorandum on Developing a Sustainable Spectrum Strategy for America’s Future.