

# POTENTIAL IMPACTS IN GEORGIA

## How Potential Impacts Are Assessed

The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement assessed impacts to a wide range of physical, cultural, and socioeconomic resources in Georgia. Levels of potential impacts to these resources were defined as follows, and are shown in the matrix below.\*†

- 1 Potentially significant:** There is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant.
- 2 Less than significant with best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures incorporated** (as defined through the consultation with the relevant resource agency): The use of BMPs and mitigation measures reduces impacts from potentially significant to less than significant.
- 3 Less than significant:** The Proposed Action is expected to result in impacts that are not potentially significant, regardless of whether BMPs and mitigation measures are incorporated.
- 4 No impact:** The Proposed Action is not likely to cause an impact.

Resource	Impact Ratings
Infrastructure	3
Soils	3
Geology	3
Water Resources	3
Wetlands	3
Threatened/Endangered Species, Species of Conservation Concern*	2
Other Biological Resources	3
Land Use, Airspace, and Recreation	3
Visual Resources	3 2
Socioeconomics	3
Environmental Justice	3
Cultural Resources†	3
Air Quality	3
Noise	3
Effects on Climate Change	3
Effects of Climate Change on FirstNet	2
Human Health and Safety	3

## Notable Potential Impacts in Georgia

- **Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Conservation Concern**, including mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants; however, these impacts may affect but are not likely to adversely affect these species, with BMPs and mitigation measures incorporated through consultation with the relevant resource agency.
- **Visual Resources**, particularly nighttime lighting and structures near national landmarks; however, these effects are expected to be less than significant with BMPs and mitigation measures incorporated.
- **Climate change** is expected to have impacts on the Proposed Action that could be potentially significant, from natural events such as flooding and storms. BMPs and mitigation measures are expected to reduce these effects. No impacts from the project are expected on climate change.

\*Impact ratings for Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Conservation Concern: **1** = May affect, likely to adversely affect; **2** = May affect, not likely to adversely affect; **3** = No effect. †Impact Ratings for Cultural Resources: **1** = Adverse effect; **2** = Mitigated adverse effect; **3** = Effect, but not adverse; **4** = No effect

## BMPs and Mitigation Measures

The following examples reflect FirstNet's general approach to BMPs and mitigation measures associated with potential impacts on resources in Georgia:

- Ensure design of above ground structures and equipment has included allowances for maximum temperature and precipitation changes; reinforce structures to include allowances for extreme weather events and flooding.
- To the maximum extent practicable, avoid activity in and disturbance of habitats and spawning sites associated with Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Conservation Concern. Seasonal and spatial buffer zones may be implemented, among other considerations.
- Take into account the scenic character of the surrounding area to minimize or avoid visual impacts when viewed from roadways. Develop options that involve use of existing physical infrastructure.