**Release Update**

***5.8.3***

# Completed Release: 5.8.3

# Duration: 29 Sep 2016 – 26 Oct 2016

Goals:

* Complete spatial import functionality
* Begin spatial attributes functionality
* Finish data exchange roadmap planning
* Start testing off-heap storage for data exchange (required to efficiently manage data volume handled during ongoing data exchange)

Outcome Highlights:

* Spatial import functionality is nearly complete, although a small number of issues relating to behavior introduced with a previously released element of this functionality need to be addressed.
* Significant progress was made toward completing spatial attributes functionality; only two issues remain.
* A data exchange roadmap identifying the set of immediate priorities was completed. It also provides a framework for future discussions of other remaining elements of data exchange. A revised version of the Biotics Roadmap incorporating these new data exchange elements will be available with the upcoming 5.8.4 release. We will be seeking network input on these priorities.
* Additional progress was made on how off-heap storage for data exchange will be implement, although testing will now be conducted during the 5.8.4 release period.

[View complete 5.8.3 release notes](http://help.natureserve.org/biotics/%22%20%5Cl%20%22Release_Notes/5.8.3.htm)

[View Biotics 5.8.3 release webinar (October 27, 2016 PowerPoint and recorded session)](http://bit.ly/1UD3BTa)

**Next Release: 5.8.4**

# Duration: 27 Oct 2016 – 22 Nov 2016

Goals:

* Finish spatial import epic
* Finish spatial attributes epic
* Finish EST acceptance criteria
* Finish off-heap storage for data exchange
* Update overall project roadmap - bring up to date with recent progress and incorporate data exchange epics

*Release Webinar: 23 November, 2016 2:00 PM EDT – Register at*
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2543687543775453188>

Agenda:

* Biotics 5.8.4
* Review of data exchange road map priorities

# Rollout Activities

* [View Bulk Upload Data Exchange (Central to Local) Rollout status map](http://arcg.is/2elary1)
	+ Recently completed Central to Local upload: Vermont, Michigan
	+ In the queue: South Carolina, Montana, Wyoming
* [View EO Upload Data Exchange (Local to Central) preliminary rollout schedule map](http://arcg.is/2elpgAZ)
	+ Recently completed EO upload: Nebraska, Vermont, Colorado, Oregon, Arizona
	+ In the queue: Ohio, Florida

Questions about the bulk upload schedule? Contact Nicole Sears (Nicole\_Sears@natureserve.org)

Questions about the EO upload schedule? Contact Suzanne Young (Suzanne\_Young@natureserve.org)

# Support Issues:

Between October 24th and November 6th, a number of Biotics system users experienced intermittent connectivity issues.  The problem was triggered by an inundation of outside traffic that may initially have been the result of a distributed denial of service attack (DDoS) requiring us to make adjustments to our network communication configuration effecting those Biotics systems.  While these initial adjustments restored connectivity, residual instability remained until final adjustment were completed on Monday November 6th.  The event had no impact on system security or the integrity of system data and only effected system connectivity.  During this period, Biotics systems remained operational except for brief periods when they were taken offline for more routine maintenance purposes.  Outside technical support brought in to assist NatureServe during this period will continue to work with us in the coming months as we implement additional measures to further help prevent or minimize future occurrences of such problems