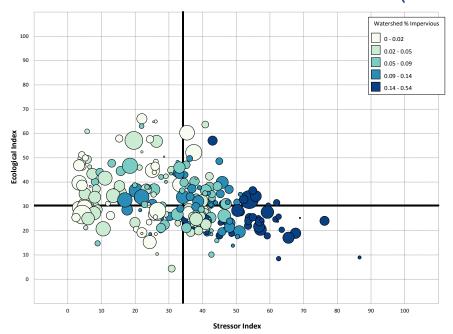
# USER GUIDE FOR THE RECOVERY POTENTIAL SCREENING (RPS)



# SCORING SPREADSHEET TOOL

January 2017

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# 1. Introduction & Background

#### 1.1. RPS Overview

Recovery Potential Screening (RPS) is a systematic method for comparing watersheds based on characteristics that may influence the relative likelihood of successful watershed restoration or protection. RPS was developed to provide states and other planners with a flexible screening tool to guide prioritization of watersheds according to differences in key environmental and social factors affecting prospects for restoration and protection success.

RPS involves identifying a group of watersheds to be compared and a specific purpose for comparison, selecting appropriate indicators of recovery potential in three categories (Ecological, Stressor, and Social; Figure 1), and calculating recovery potential index scores for the watersheds. Index scores include the Ecological Index, Stressor Index, and Social Index and are calculated by combining indicators from each category. For example, the Ecological Index is calculated from all ecological indicators while the Stressor Index is calculated from all stressor indicators. In addition, an overall Recovery Potential Integrated (RPI) Index score is calculated by combining the Ecological Index, Stressor Index, and Social Index.

# **Ecological Indicators**

Measure the capacity to maintain or reestablish natural structure and processes

#### **Stressor Indicators**

Measure the extent of anthropogenic sources of impaired water quality

#### **Social Indicators**

Measure relevant community, regulatory, economic, or behavioral factors

Figure 1. RPS uses three categories of recovery potential indicators to compare watersheds.

# 1.2. RPS Scoring Spreadsheet Tool

The RPS Scoring Spreadsheet Tool (RPS Tool) is a custom-coded Microsoft Excel workbook designed to facilitate setting up an RPS screening run, perform all recovery potential index calculations, and display results. The State RPS Tool series was first released in July 2014 and updated in June 2016 as a set of ready-to-use RPS spreadsheet tools for each of the lower 48 States. Each RPS Tool has pre-calculated indicator data already embedded for all 12-digit hydrologic unit (HUC12) subwatersheds of the National Watershed Boundary Dataset that are wholly or partially within the State's boundary. In addition to storing pre-calculated indicator data, each State RPS Tool:

- Contains a user-friendly interface for setting up a screening;
- Automatically calculates RPS index scores and ranks for the HUC12 subwatersheds of interest;
- Displays results in customizable table, plot, and map form;
- Can be readily updated with user-generated indicator data; and
- Can export data and screening results for use in other geospatial tools, documents and presentations.

The RPS Tool is designed for use by anyone with basic familiarity with Microsoft Excel. Instructions for each step are contained within the RPS Tool and this User Guide provides more detailed directions on tool use.

#### 1.3. User Guide Organization

The RPS Tool is made up of several worksheets within a Microsoft Excel workbook. Some worksheets contain interactive menus and buttons while others store data for viewing and use in RPS calculations.

Each section of this User Guide describes a worksheet in the RPS Tool. Worksheet contents are summarized and step-bystep instructions are provided for interactive features within the worksheet. For some worksheets and features, a set of advanced tips are also provided for users that have become proficient in basic use of the tool.

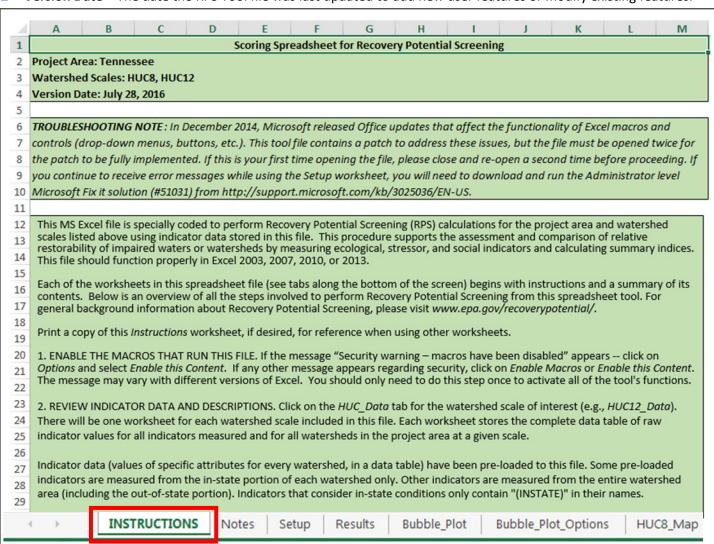
#### 2. Instructions Worksheet

Please make it a habit to **re-name and save your RPS tool file** before you begin a new screening, in order to ensure that you will know what topic is addressed in each screening run and a separate, unused tool copy always remains available.

The *Instructions* worksheet provides an abridged set of instructions for using the RPS Tool. Green-shaded areas within other worksheets also provide more specific instructions. The *Instructions* worksheet and other green-shaded areas are intended to serve as a built-in reference for users of the RPS Tool. They do not supplant the more detailed instructions presented in this User Guide.

Listed at the top of the *Instructions* are three key pieces of information for the tool file you are working with:

- Project Area The state, river basin, or other geographic area that the RPS Tool file is designed for. Each tool file comes with a table of pre-calculated indicator data for all watersheds in the Project Area at one or more watershed scales (defined below). Users can decide to screen all watersheds within the Project Area or only a subset of watersheds of interest.
- Watershed Scales The watershed scales that the RPS Tool file is able to screen. The term "watershed scale" refers to pre-defined watershed delineations. A typical tool file is able to screen, at minimum, 12-digit hydrologic units (HUC12s) of the National Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD). Tool files for some Project Areas are able to screen additional watershed scales such as 8-digit hydrologic units (HUC8s).
- Version Date The date the RPS Tool file was last updated to add new user features or modify existing features.

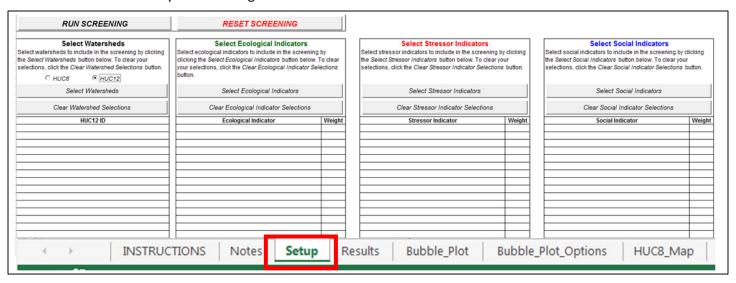


# 3. Setup Worksheet

# 3.1. Overview

#### **Basics**

The **Setup** worksheet is your "home base" for configuring and running a Recovery Potential Screening. It is the first worksheet you should use after opening the tool file, reviewing instructions, and planning your Recovery Potential Screening run. The **Setup** worksheet is the only worksheet where you can choose (and change) the watersheds and indicators that are used in your screening run.



The **Setup** worksheet is organized into four sections:

- In the Select Watersheds section you will specify which watersheds will be included in the screening.
- In the Select Ecological Indicators section you will specify which ecological indicators will be used in the screening and how those ecological indicators will be weighted.
- In the **Select Stressor Indicators** section you will specify which stressor indicators will be used in the screening and how those stressor indicators will be weighted.
- In the Select Social Indicators section you will specify which social indicators will be used in the screening and how those social indicators will be weighted.

After selecting watersheds, indicators, and weights, you will click the **RUN SCREENING** button to populate other worksheets in the tool with screening results. The **Setup** worksheet also includes a **RESET SCREENING** button to clear the current watershed/indicator selections from the **Setup** worksheet and screening results from other worksheets so that a new screening run can be configured from scratch.

The following sections of this guide provide step-by-step instructions for how to:

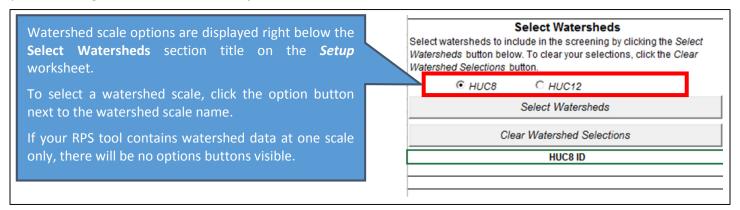
- Choose a Watershed Scale
- Select Watersheds to Screen
- Select Indicators and Assign Weights
- Use the Run Screening Button
- Respond to Warning Messages
- Use the Reset Button

- Completing the setup process is far easier if you have already planned out your screening by identifying the screening purpose, watersheds of interest, and relevant indicators (from the full list available) beforehand.
- The process of selecting watersheds and indicators to screen can be streamlined by copying and pasting watershed IDs, indicator names, and indicator weights that have already been compiled in other spreadsheets. This is faster than typing or selecting individually from popup menus on the *Setup* worksheet. Instructions for copying and pasting watersheds and indicators into the *Setup* worksheet are provided in the following sections.
- After setting up and running a screening, you may want to make minor adjustments to your screening by adding or removing watersheds, adding or removing indicators, or adjusting indicator weights. Do not click the **RESET SCREENING** button on the **Setup** worksheet if you want to make minor adjustments to an existing screening (e.g., remove or add selected indicators, change their weights, or change watersheds) since clicking the **RESET SCREENING** button will clear **all** selections from the **Setup** worksheet. Instead, to adjust an existing screening, simply make the desired changes on the **Setup** worksheet and then re-click the **RUN SCREENING** button. This will update results stored on other worksheets to reflect the changes made to watershed and indicator selections on the **Setup** worksheet.
- Save completed screening runs and change the file name before beginning a new run with different watersheds or indicators, or before using RESET SCREENING.

#### 3.2. Choose Watershed Scale

#### **Basics**

Some RPS Tool files are designed to screen watersheds at a single scale (e.g., HUC12 subwatersheds only) and offer no choice of scales. Others allow users to select between multiple watershed scales for screening (e.g., either HUC8 watersheds or HUC12 subwatersheds). If your tool file includes multiple watershed scales, you must specify which scale your screening will consider on the *Setup* worksheet.



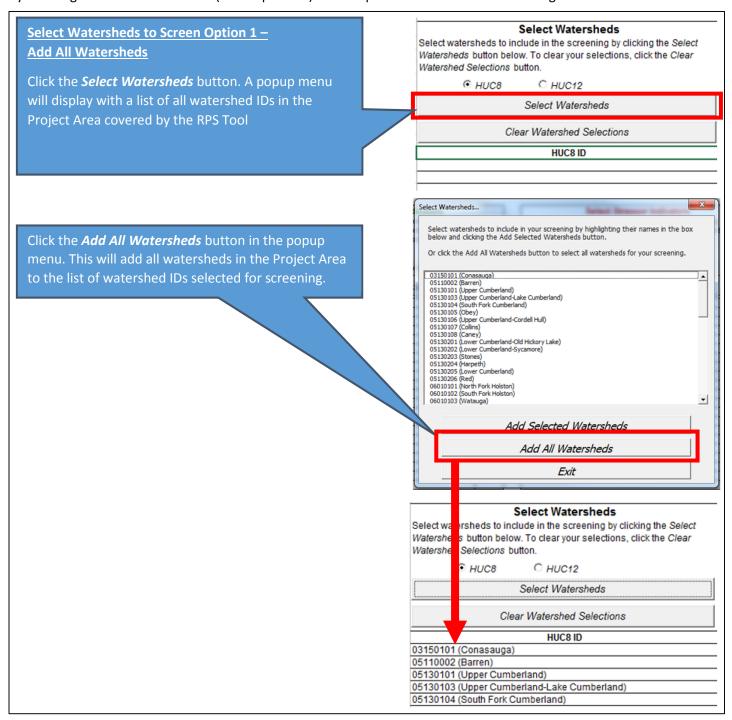
- Users must select only one watershed scale per screening run (i.e., you cannot screen watersheds from multiple scales in a single screening run).
- Clicking a watershed scale button will prepare the watershed and indicator popup menus on the **Setup** worksheet
  for next steps. For example, clicking the HUC12 option button will add HUC12 IDs to the popup menu displayed
  when the **Select Watersheds** button is clicked.
- Be aware that changing to a different watershed scale will reset the **Setup** worksheet by clearing any selected watersheds, indicators, and weights. If you have begun to setup your screening run by entering watersheds, indicators, or weights on the **Setup** worksheet then those entries will be deleted if you click a different watershed scale button and will not be recovered by returning to the original scale.

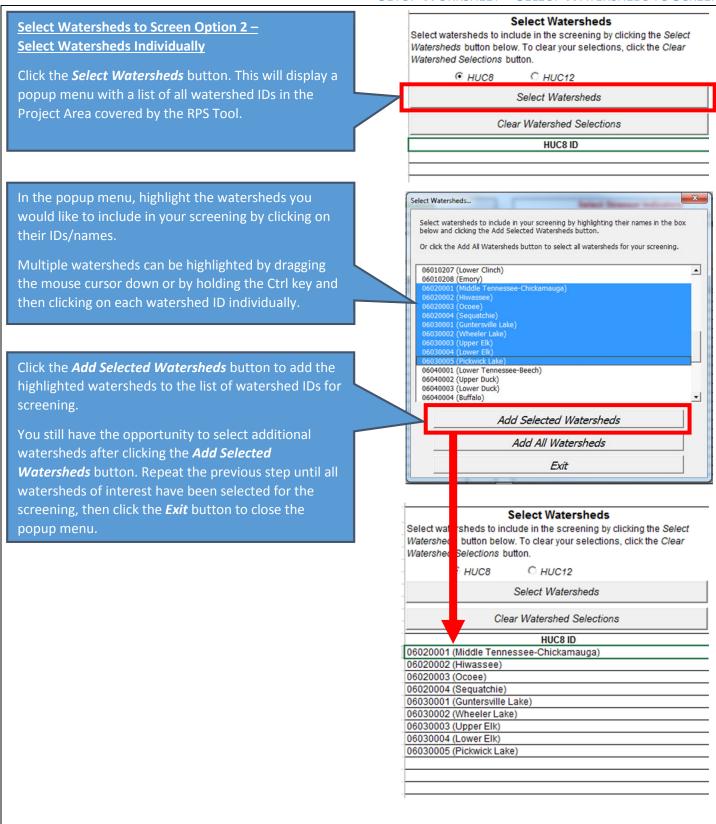
#### 3.3. Select Watersheds to Screen

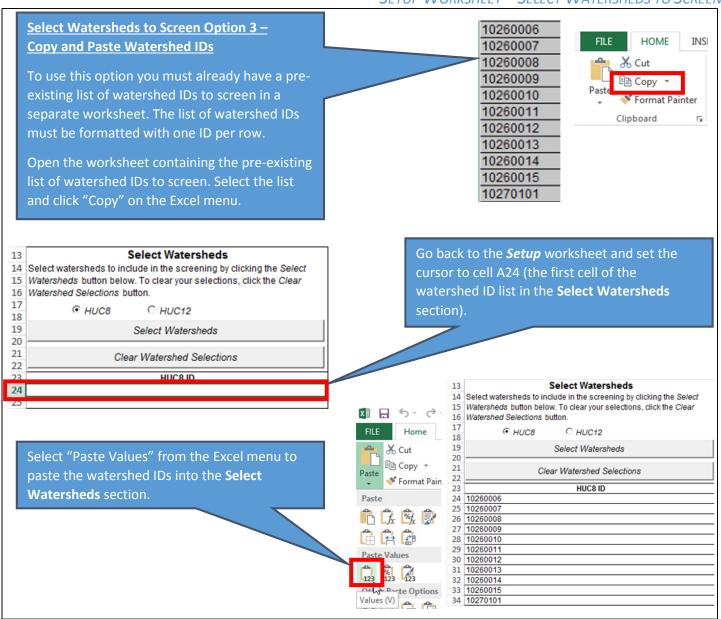
#### **Basics**

A Recovery Potential Screening run can include all watersheds in the Project Area that the RPS Tool is designed for or a smaller subset of watersheds of interest. Users must decide which watersheds to screen based on the purpose and goals of their screening.

In the **Select Watersheds** section of the **Setup** worksheet, you will specify which watersheds to include in the screening by entering a list of watershed IDs (one ID per row). Three options are available for entering watersheds IDs:







- The watershed ID list in the **Select Watersheds** section must begin in cell A24 of the **Setup** worksheet and must contain one watershed ID per row.
- Watershed names alone cannot be added to the watershed ID list. Watershed names can be included in the text but must occur after the watershed ID. For example, the Jacks River HUC12 (HUC12 ID 031501010102) can be entered as "031501010102" or "031501010102 (Jacks River)" but not "Jacks River".
- When manually typing watershed IDs or copying and pasting from another worksheet, be sure that all IDs are present in column A of the *Indicator Data* worksheet for the watershed scale you are screening (e.g., the *HUC12\_Data* worksheet HUC12 subwatersheds are being screened). The tool cannot screen watersheds that are not present in the *Indicator Data* worksheet.
- Use the *HUC Subsets* worksheet to store lists of watershed IDs that will be of interest for future screenings. For example, you can use the *HUC Subsets* worksheet to store lists of HUC12 IDs within each HUC8 in the Project Area. You can then copy and paste a group of HUC12s from the *HUC Subsets* worksheet to the *Setup* worksheet for a screening run.
- Do not omit leading zeros from watershed IDs (e.g., "04030001" cannot be entered as "4030001"). Omitting leading zeros will cause errors in the screening run.
- If HUC8 watersheds are being screened, the first 8 characters in each watershed ID are used to extract indicator values from the indicator data worksheet. Any text after the eighth character is ignored.
- If HUC12 subwatersheds are being screened, only the first 12 characters in each watershed ID are used to extract indicator values from the indicator data sheet. Any text after the twelfth character is ignored.

# 3.4. Select Indicators and Weights

RPS index scores and ranks are calculated for each watershed included in a screening using ecological, stressor, and social indicators. The choice of which indicators to use for a screening depends on the purpose of the screening and the nature of the watersheds being screened. Thus, users should review the full list of indicators and their definitions in the *Indicator Info* worksheet before selecting indicators on the *Setup* worksheet.

#### **Basics**

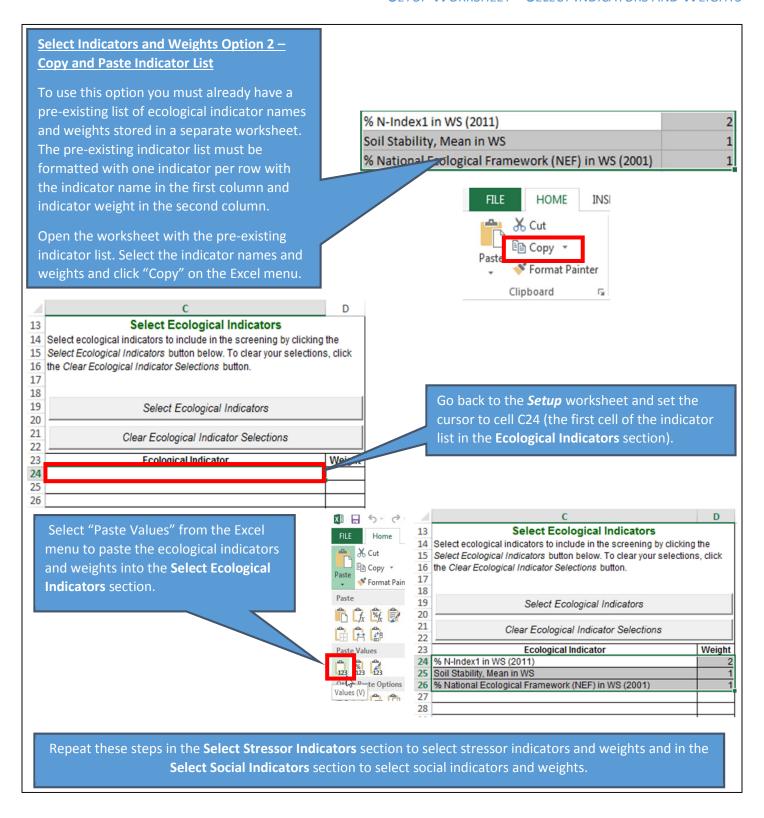
At least one ecological indicator, one stressor indicator, and one social indicator must be selected in order to perform a Recovery Potential Screening run. Neutral indicator values are available in each category if one or more categories are not of interest. In general, three to ten indicators per category are recommended. If too few indicators are selected, index scores will not adequately reflect the factors influencing recovery potential. If too many indicators are selected, index scores will reflect random noise in the indicator data rather than true patterns in recovery potential.

Indicator weights determine the relative influence of each indicator on index scores. Weights must be numeric but any set of numeric values can be used. A typical approach is to select a certain number of weight categories (e.g., 3 = high; 2 = medium; 1 = low) and assign weights to indicators based on their relevance to the purpose of the screening and data quality considerations.

Two options are available for selecting indicators and weights on the **Setup** worksheet. Step-by-step instructions for each option are provided on the following pages.

#### Select Ecological Indicators Select Indicators and Weights Option 1 – Select Select ecological indicators to include in the screening by clicking the Select Ecological Indicators button below. To clear your selections, click from Popup Menu the Clear Ecological Indicator Selections button. Click on the **Select Ecological Indicators** button. A popup menu will display with a list of Select Ecological Indicators ecological indicators that can be selected for Clear Ecological Indicator Selections screening. **Ecological Indicator** Weight In the popup menu, highlight the indicators you Select Ecological Indicators... would like to include in your screening by clicking on their name. Select ecological indicators to include in your screening by highlighting their names in the box below and clicking the Add Selected Indicators button. Double-clicking an indicator name will display a Double-click any indicator name in the box to view its description. popup box with its description. % Natural Cover, N-index2 (2006) in Watershed % Natural Cover, N-index1 (2006) in HCZ % Natural Cover, N-index 2 (2006) in HCZ % Natural Cover, N-index (2006) in Riparian Zone Click the **Add Selected Indicators** button to add % Natural Cover, N-index 2 (2006) in Riparian Zone % National Ecological Framework (NEF) in WS (2001) the highlighted indicators to the list of Ratio of Natural to Recycled N Inputs indicators selected for screening. Ratio of Natural to New N Input You still have the opportunity to select additional indicators after clicking the Add **Selected Indicators** button. Repeat the previous Add Selected Indicators step until all indicators of interest have been Exit selected for the screening then click the Exit button to close the popup menu. Select Ecological Indicators ical indicators to include in the screening by clicking the Select Ecol gical Indicators button below. To clear your selections, click the Clear E logical Indicator Selections button Select Ecological Indicators Clear Ecological Indicator Selections Select Ecological Indicators **Ecological Indicator** Weight % Woody Vegetation (2006) in Riparian Zone Select ecological indicators to include in the screening by clicking the % Natural Cover, N-index1 (2006) in Watershed Select Ecological Indicators button below. To clear your selections, click NFHAP Habitat Condition Index the Clear Ecological Indicator Selections button. Select Ecological Indicators By default, indicators selected from the popup Clear Ecological Indicator Selections menu will be assigned a weight of 1. **Ecological Indicator** Weight Т % Woody Vegetation (2006) in Riparian Zone 2 Indicator weights can be adjusted by placing the % Natural Cover, N-index1 (2006) in Watershed NFHAP Habitat Condition Index cursor on the cell containing the weight and typing in a new weight.

Repeat these steps in the **Select Stressor Indicators** section to select stressor indicators and weights and in the **Select Social Indicators** section to select social indicators and weights.

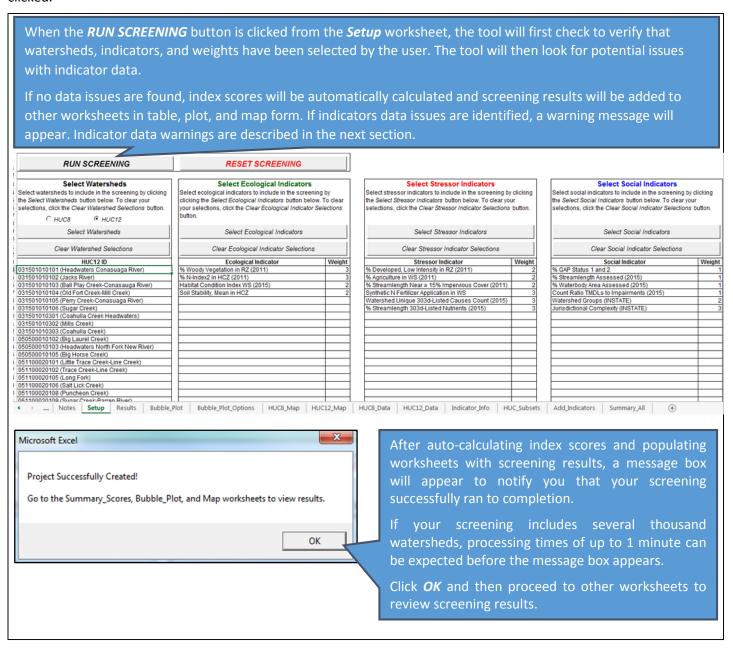


- The Ecological Indicator list must begin in cell C24 of the **Setup** worksheet and must contain one indicator per row.
- The Stressor Indicator list must begin in cell G24 of the **Setup** worksheet and must contain one indicator per row.
- The Social Indicator list must begin in cell K24 of the Setup worksheet and must contain one indicator per row.
- The Ecological, Stressor, and Social Indicator lists must be continuous (no blank rows). If blank rows are present, any indicators below the first blank row will not be included in the screening.
- When copying and pasting from another worksheet, be sure that indicator names exactly match names in the header row (row 7) of the *Indicator Data* worksheet for the selected watershed scale (e.g., the *HUC12\_Data* worksheet if HUC12 subwatersheds are being screened). Any differences in indicator spelling, capitalization, or whitespace will result in errors when the screening is run.
- Indicator weights can be set to zero. A weight of zero means that the indicator has no effect on index scores.
- Indicator weights can be set to negative values. A negative weight will reverse the directional effect of the indicator on index scores. The standard directionality is for larger indicator values to increase Ecological Index, Stressor, and Social Index scores. A negative weight will reverse directionality so that smaller values increase Ecological Index, Stressor, and Social Index scores.
- For ecological and social, higher numbers indicate watershed health, in stressor, higher numbers indicate watershed stress.
- Indicator selections within each category (Ecological, Stressor, and Social) should be topically diverse. A diverse set of indicators will reflect a range of factors relevant to recovery potential rather than one single topic.
- Users may want to consider numeric redundancy as part of the indicator selection process. Non-redundant indicators can be identified by examining correlation coefficients between indicator pairs.
- Up to 20 indicators can be selected in each category.

# 3.5. Run Screening Button

#### **Basics**

After selecting watersheds, indicators, and weights for your screening, use the **RUN SCREENING** button to auto-calculate Ecological Index, Stressor Index, Social Index, and Recovery Potential Integrated (RPI) Index scores for each watershed. Clicking the **RUN SCREENING** button will populate other worksheets in the RPS Tool with screening results. Any results from previous screenings will be cleared from other worksheets in the RPS Tool when the **RUN SCREENING** button is clicked.



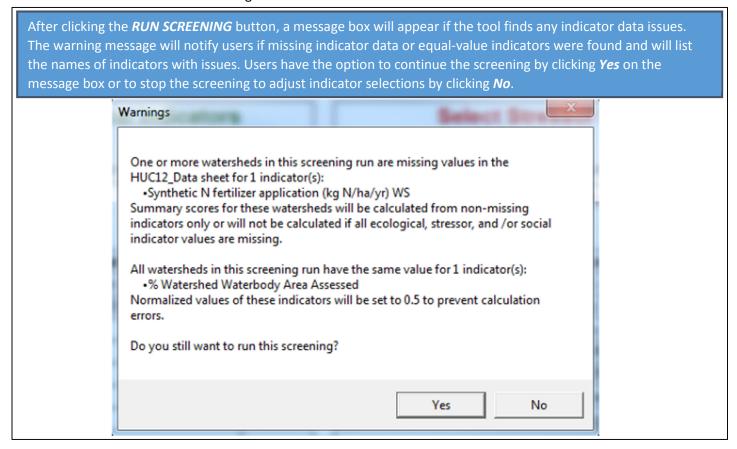
- After clicking the **RUN SCREENING** button an error message may appear. A screening will not successfully run to completion and an error message will be displayed if any of the following errors occur:
  - Watersheds, indicators, and/or weights are not specified.
  - One or more watershed IDs entered in the Select Watersheds section do not have an exact match in column
    A of the *Indicator Data* worksheet for the watershed scale you are screening (e.g., the *HUC12\_Data*worksheet if HUC12 subwatersheds are being screened).
  - One or more indicator names entered in the Select Ecological Indicators, Select Stressor Indicators, or Select Social Indicators sections do not have an exact match in the header row of the Indicator Data worksheet (e.g., the HUC12\_Data worksheet if HUC12 subwatersheds are being screened).
  - One or more of the indicators selected for screening contain non-numeric data in the *Indicator Data* worksheet. Indicator data must be numeric (blank cells are allowed for missing data).

# 3.6. Respond to Warning Messages

#### **Basics**

After clicking the **RUN SCREENING** button on the **Setup** worksheet, the tool will automatically check for potential issues with indicator data, including:

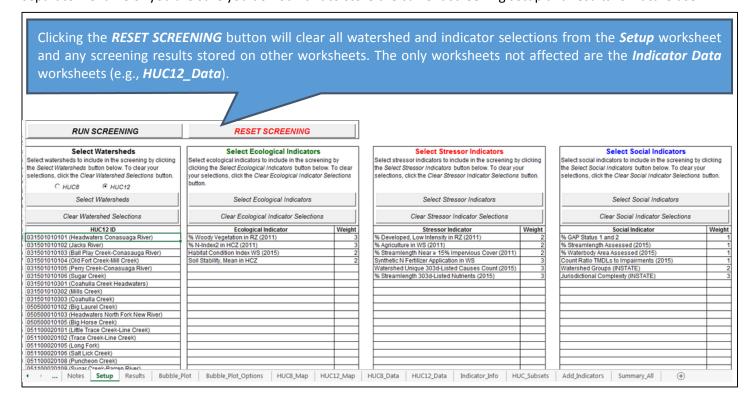
- Missing indicator values. In most cases, each indicator will have a numeric value for every watershed selected for screening in the *Indicator Data* worksheet. However, indicator values may be missing for one or more watersheds. The user is given an opportunity to decide whether they will accept the data gap or terminate the screening. Missing indicator values are denoted as blank cells in the *Indicator Data* worksheet. If a watershed is missing indicator values, then RPS index scores for that watershed will be calculated from non-missing indicators only. In rare cases, a watershed will be missing values of all ecological, stressor, and social indicators selected for the screening. If a watershed is missing values for all indicators, RPS index scores cannot be calculated for that watershed.
- Equal-value indicators. Equal value indicators are indicators that have the same exact value for every watershed selected for screening. Equal value indicators therefore provide no information on recovery potential differences between watersheds. RPS index calculations are based on the assumption that indicator values vary between watersheds and cannot be applied to equal value indicators. An equal-value indicator can be included in a screening but normalized values of the equal-value indicator are set to 0.5 for all watersheds to prevent index calculation errors. As above, the user is given an opportunity to decide whether they will continue including the equal-value indicator or terminate the screening.



- Users can remove indicators with missing values or equal-value indicators by clicking No on the warning message box and deleting the names of indicators from the Select Ecological Indicators, Select Stressor Indicators, and/or the Select Social Indicators sections.
- Decisions on whether to remove indicators with missing values can be based on the number of watersheds with missing data. Missing indicator values are denoted as blank cells on the indicator data worksheet. As the number of watersheds with missing data increases, the value of the indicator for describing recovery potential differences between watersheds decreases. If most of the watersheds selected for screening are missing values of an indicator, it is likely advantageous to remove that indicator from the screening, particularly if it can be replaced with another indicator with a more complete record that describes a similar watershed characteristic. However, an argument can sometimes be made for using an indicator with values for few watersheds if it is especially relevant to a screening purpose that involves targeting or prioritizing a small proportion of watersheds.
- Equal-value indicators should be removed from a screening since they provide no information on recovery potential differences between watersheds. The exception is when a user intentionally selects an equal-value indicator as the only indicator for one of the Ecological, Stressor, or Social groups to evaluate the effect on RPI index scores. For example, selecting an equal-value indicator as the only Social indicator will nullify the effect of Social Index scores on the RPI Index since all watersheds will receive an equal Social Index score. There are equal-value "neutral variables" added to the ecological, stressor, and social indicator categories specifically for this purpose.

# 3.7. Reset Screening Button

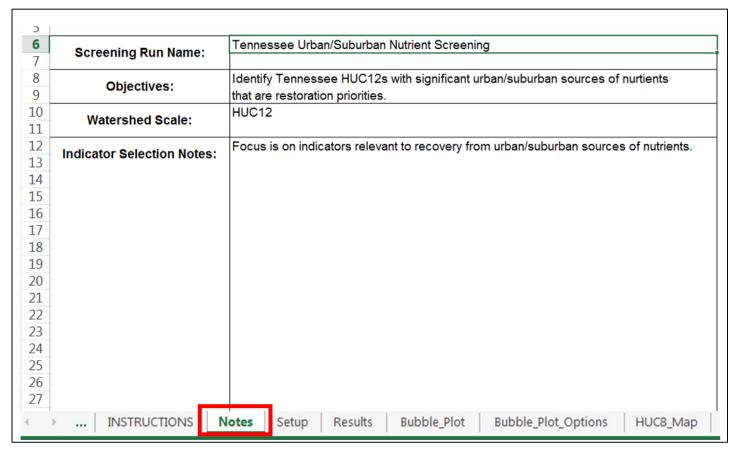
The **RESET SCREENING** button on the **Setup** worksheet can be used to produce a "clean slate" version of the RPS Tool. Do not click the **RESET SCREENING** button unless you have saved the current screening setup and results under a separate filename or you are sure you do not want to store the current screening setup and results for future use.



# 4. Notes Worksheet

The *Notes* worksheet provides users with a space to document information related to their screening run, including a screening run name, screening objectives, watershed scale screened, and notes on indicator selection and weighting.

Filling the *Notes* worksheet is optional, its contents are not used in any of the auto-calculation methods in the RPS Tool.



#### 5. Results Worksheet

# 5.1. Overview

#### **Basics**

The **Results** worksheet displays a table of Ecological Index, Stressor Index, Social Index, and Recovery Potential Integrated (RPI) Index scores and ranks for each watershed selected for screening. Also displayed are values of the ecological, stressor, and social indicators selected for the screening. All base indicator values are also displayed to allow for sorting or filtering according to base indicator values.

Index scores and ranks are automatically calculated and added to the **Results** worksheet after clicking the **RUN SCREENING** button on the **Setup** worksheet. Watersheds are displayed in the same order as they are entered in the **Select Watersheds** section of the **Setup** worksheet.

Ecological Index, Stressor Index, and Social Index scores are calculated as the average of weight-adjusted, normalized indicator values. RPI scores are calculated from Ecological Index, Stressor Index, and Social Index scores. Index scores can be interpreted using the following guidelines:

- **Higher** Ecological Index scores correspond to **higher** recovery potential.
- Lower Stressor Index scores correspond to higher recovery potential.
- Higher Social Index scores correspond to higher recovery potential.
- Higher RPI Index scores correspond to higher recovery potential.

Watershed ID -	Watershed Name	Ecological Index -	Ecological Rank -	Stressor Index 🕞	Stressor Rank 🕞	Social Index 🖃	Social Rank -	RPI Score -	RPI Rank
031501010101	◆ adwaters Conasuaga River	53.98	78	2.10	93	19.38	743	57.09	17
031501010102	Jacks River	53.17	84	0.01	7	43.97	58	65.71	
031501010103	Ball Play Creek-Conasauga River	50.06	160	3.13	156	39.44	125	62.13	4
031501010104	Old Fort Creek-Mill Creek	41.22	582	21.81	917	38.87	131	52.76	45
031501010105	Perry Creek-Conasuaga River	43.14	481	11.60	599	31.48	287	54.34	33
031501010106	Sugar Creek	45.38	362	13.53	671	21.59	652	51.15	59
031501010301	Coahulla Creek Headwaters	42.16	537	14.59	717	26.53	471	51.37	57
031501010302	Mills Creek	37.20	812	13.53	671	21.37	662	48.35	80
031501010303	Coahulla Creek	44.65	408	9.14	475	15.52	897	50.34	67
050500010102	Big Laurel Creek	51.47	118	4.44	235	7.50	1103	51.51	56
050500010103	Headwaters North Fork New River	46.73	292	4.08	212	14.83	928	52.49	47
050500010105	Big Horse Creek	49.44	173	6.26	311	7.73	1099	50.30	67
051100020101	Little Trace Creek-Line Creek	35.39	910	14.89	730	22.32	629	47.61	84
051100020102	Trace Creek-Line Creek	35.82	885	14.94	732	22.94	602	47.94	82
051100020105	Long Fork	39.16	705	25.14	979	15.63	891	43.22	100
051100020106	Salt Lick Creek	40.38	631	15.10	737	19.82	729	48.37	80
051100020108	Puncheon Creek	36.82	833	15.30	747	18.29	789	46.60	90
051100020109	Sugar Creek-Barren River	41.01	597	15.37	750	2.98	1139	42.87	102
051100020201	Upper Long Creek	36.27	863	16.23	787	16.23	875	45.42	94
051100020203	Pinchgut Creek-Barren River	40.81	606	13.25	656	22.58	620	50.05	69
	Headwaters Transmel Creek	37.29	804	19.23	863	28.57	394	48.88	76
<b>←</b> →	Setup Results	Bubble_Pl	ot Bubble	_Plot_Options	HUC12_I	Map HU	IC8_Data	HUC12	_Data

#### **Advanced Tips**

■ The formula used to calculate each weight—adjusted normalized indicator value is:

$$Ind_{Norm} = Weight * \frac{(Ind - Ind_{Min})}{(Ind_{Max} - Ind_{Min})}$$

where  $Ind_{Norm}$  is the weight-adjusted normalized indicator value, weight is the indicator weight, Ind is the raw indicator value,  $Ind_{Min}$  is the minimum indicator value for watersheds selected for screening, and  $Ind_{Max}$  maximum indicator value for watersheds selected for screening.

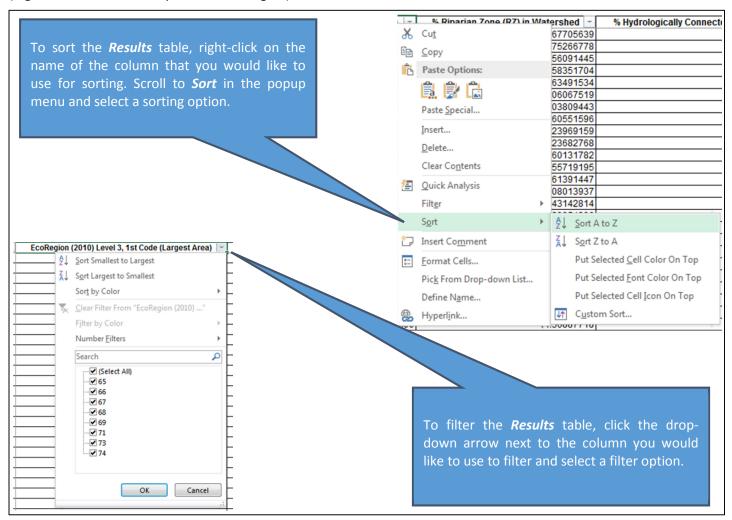
RPI scores are calculated from Ecological Index, Stressor Index, and Social Index scores using the formula:

$$RPI = \frac{[Ecological\ Index + Social\ Index + (100 - Stressor\ Index)]}{3}$$

- Ecological Index, Social Index, and RPI Index ranks are determined by sorting index scores from highest to lowest (i.e., the watershed with the highest Ecological Index score receives a rank of 1).
- Stressor Index ranks are determined by sorting index scores from lowest to highest (i.e., the watershed with the lowest Stressor Index score receives a rank of 1). This ensures that the #1 rank for any index is consistently 'good'.

# 5.2. Sort and Filter

By default, the *Results* table displays indicator data and index scores for all watersheds included in the screening and sorted by watershed ID. Users can sort the *Results* table based on values in any column in the table (e.g., from highest to lowest Ecological Index score). Users can also filter the *Results* table to only display watersheds that meet certain criteria (e.g., watersheds within a particular ecoregion).

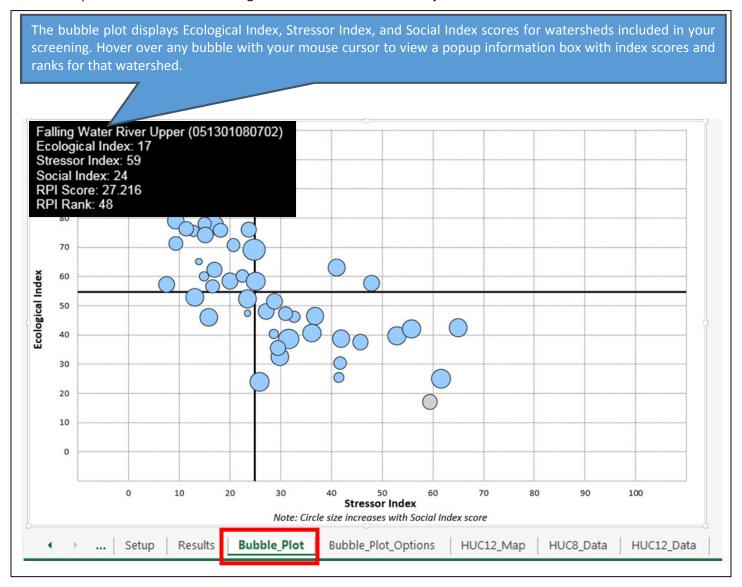


#### 6. Bubble Plot Worksheet

The **Bubble Plot** worksheet contains a bubble plot that displays RPS results. The worksheet displays no bubbles until a screening has been successfully run.

The **Bubble Plot** is automatically created when the **RUN SCREENING** button is clicked on the **Setup** worksheet. It contains one "bubble" for each watershed selected for screening, with the Stressor Index score plotted on the horizontal (x) axis, Ecological Index score plotted on the vertical (y) axis, and Social Index plotted as the bubble size. Larger bubbles have higher Social Index scores relative to smaller bubbles. Secondary horizontal and vertical axes also appear at the median values of the Stressor Index and Ecological Index scores, respectively.

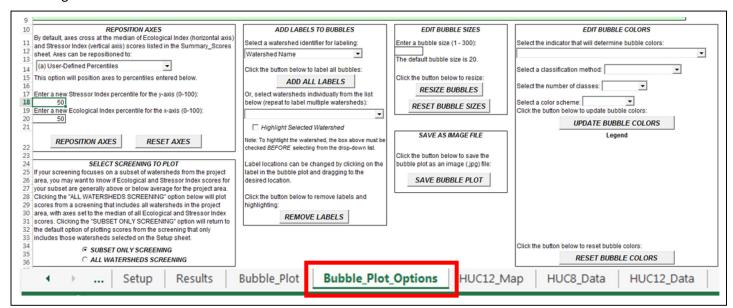
The bubble plot can be customized using controls on the **Bubble Plot Options** worksheet.



# 7. Bubble Plot Options Worksheet

#### 7.1. Overview

The **Bubble Plot Options** worksheet provides users the ability to customize the **Bubble Plot** worksheet that displays screening results.



The following sections provide step-by-step instructions for how to use the **Bubble Plot Options** worksheet to:

- Reposition Plot Axes
- Toggle Between Plotting a Subset Only Screening or an All Watersheds Screening
- Add Labels to Bubbles
- Edit Bubble Sizes
- Edit Bubble Colors
- Save an Image File of the Bubble Plot

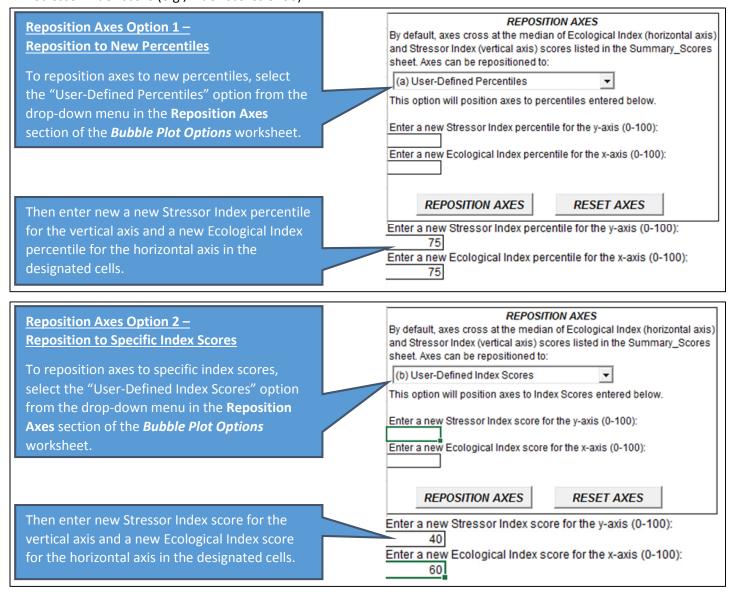
# 7.2. Reposition Secondary Axes

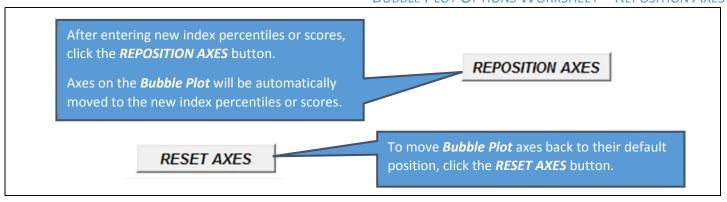
The secondary (median) horizontal axis and vertical axis of the **Bubble Plot** can be set to any user-defined position.

By default, the horizontal axis is positioned at the median of Ecological Index scores for the active screening and the vertical axis is positioned at the median of Stressor Index scores.

Users have two options for repositioning **Bubble Plot** axes:

- Reposition to new index percentiles Under this option, users can reposition axes to any desired percentile of Ecological Index and Stressor Index scores (25<sup>th</sup> percentile, 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, etc.);
- Reposition to specific index scores Under this option, users can reposition axes to any desired Ecological and Stressor Index score (e.g., index scores of 50).





# 7.3. Toggle Screening to Plot

By default, the *Bubble Plot* displays Ecological Index, Stressor Index, and Social Index scores listed in the *Summary Scores* worksheet. These scores are derived from indicators that are normalized to minimum and maximum values for the subset of watersheds included in the screening. Index scores are therefore relative rather than absolute, they depend on the subset of watersheds selected for screening. A given watershed will have two different sets of index scores for two screenings that include different groups of watersheds.

Users may be interested in how the subset of watersheds selected for screening compares to all other watersheds in the Project Area. For example, users may want to know whether ecological conditions in the screened subset are above- or below-average for the Project Area as a whole. Such questions can be answered by running the same screening on all watersheds in the Project Area and then reviewing the resulting index scores for the watershed subset of interest. To streamline this process, the RPS Tool allows users to view an alternate version of the bubble plot with index scores that result from a screening that includes all watersheds in the Project Area. This can be done on-the-fly in the **Select Screening to Plot** section of the **Bubble Plot Options** worksheet without adjusting settings on the **Setup** worksheet or creating a new file.

The **Select Screening to Plot** section contains option buttons to toggle between a "Subset Only" screening or an "All Watersheds" screening. A "Subset Only" screening includes only those watersheds selected for screening on the **Setup** worksheet. An "All Watersheds" screening includes all watersheds in the Project Area. Note that if you selected all watersheds in the Project Area on the **Setup** worksheet then there is no difference between the two options.

#### SELECT SCREENING TO PLOT

If your screening focuses on a subset of watersheds from the project area, you may want to know if Ecological and Stressor Index scores for your subset are generally above or below average for the project area. Clicking the "ALL WATERSHEDS SCREENING" option below will plot scores from a screening that includes all watersheds in the project area, with axes set to the median of all Ecological and Stressor Index scores. Clicking the "SUBSET ONLY SCREENING" option will return to the default option of plotting scores from the screening that only includes those watersheds selected on the Setup sheet.

SUBSET ONLY SCREENING

C ALL WATERSHEDS SCREENING

By default, the Bubble Plot displays index scores resulting from "Subset Only" screening.

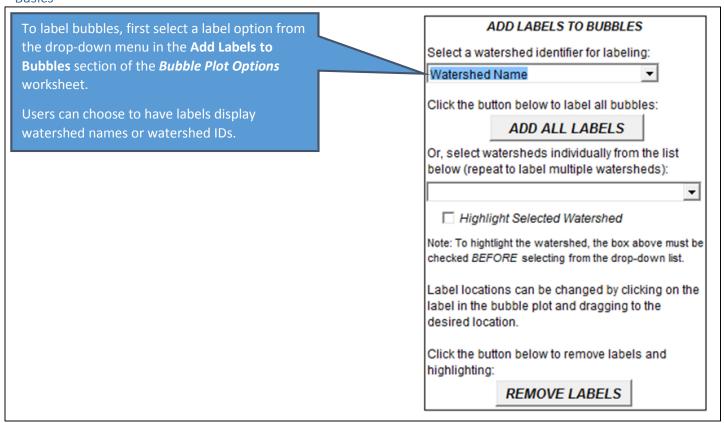
Click the *ALL WATERSHEDS SCREENING* option button to view index scores resulting from a screening that includes all watersheds in the Project Area. The *Bubble Plot* worksheet will automatically update with new index scores for the "All Watersheds" screening.

If you have viewed bubble plot for the "All Watersheds" screening and want to return to the "Subset Only" screening bubble plot, click the **SUBSET ONLY SCREENING** button. The **Bubble Plot** worksheet will automatically update with index scores for the "Subset Only" screening.

#### 7.4. Label Bubbles

Bubbles in the *Bubble Plot* worksheet can be labeled to identify one or more watersheds. Bubbles can be labeled with the watershed name or the watershed ID. Users also have the option to highlight labeled bubbles to make them stand out from other unlabeled bubbles.

#### **Basics**

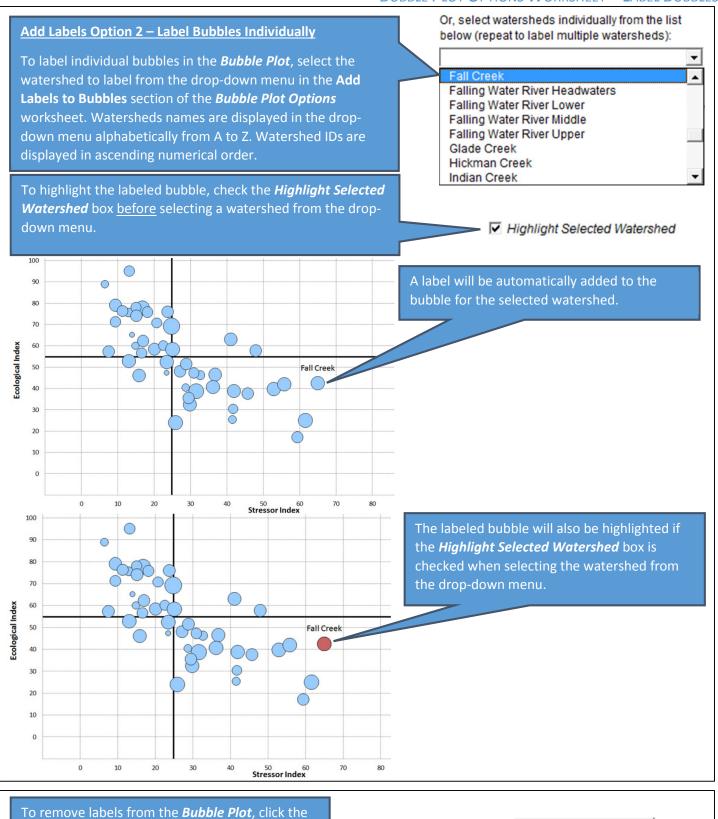


#### Add Labels Option 1 – Label All Bubbles

If you would like to add labels to all bubbles on the *Bubble Plot* worksheet, click the *ADD ALL LABELS* button. Labeling all bubbles is generally not recommended if your screening includes more than 20 watersheds.

Click the button below to label all bubbles:

ADD ALL LABELS



REMOVE LABELS button. This will also remove

any highlighting from labeled bubbles.

REMOVE LABELS

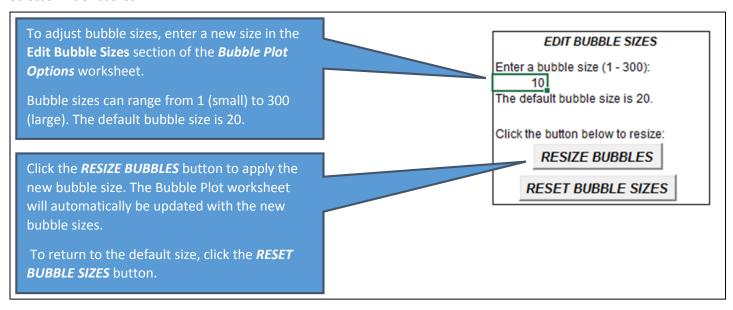
- Label text, formatting, and position can be edited manually after labels are added.
- To edit label text, click on the label in the **Bubble Plot** worksheet and revise the text as desired
- To edit label formatting (font size, color, etc.) click on the label in the **Bubble Plot** worksheet and use Excel's font formatting menu.
- To edit the position of a label, click on the label in the **Bubble Plot** worksheet and drag it to the desired location.

#### 7.5. Edit Bubble Sizes

The size of each bubble in the **Bubble Plot** is based on the Social Index score for the corresponding watershed (i.e., bubbles for watersheds with higher Social Index scores are larger than bubbles for watersheds with lower Social Index scores).

While users cannot adjust the size of an individual bubble, they can collectively increase or decrease the size of all bubbles to improve the look of the *Bubble Plot*.

A common reason for editing bubble sizes is to reduce overlap between bubbles with similar Ecological Index and Stressor Index scores.

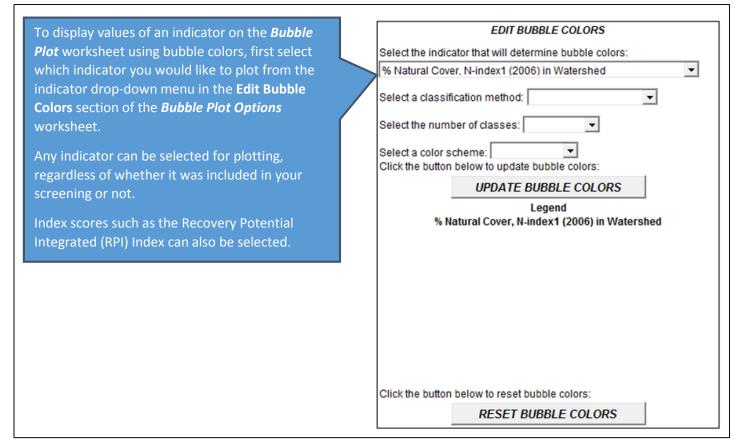


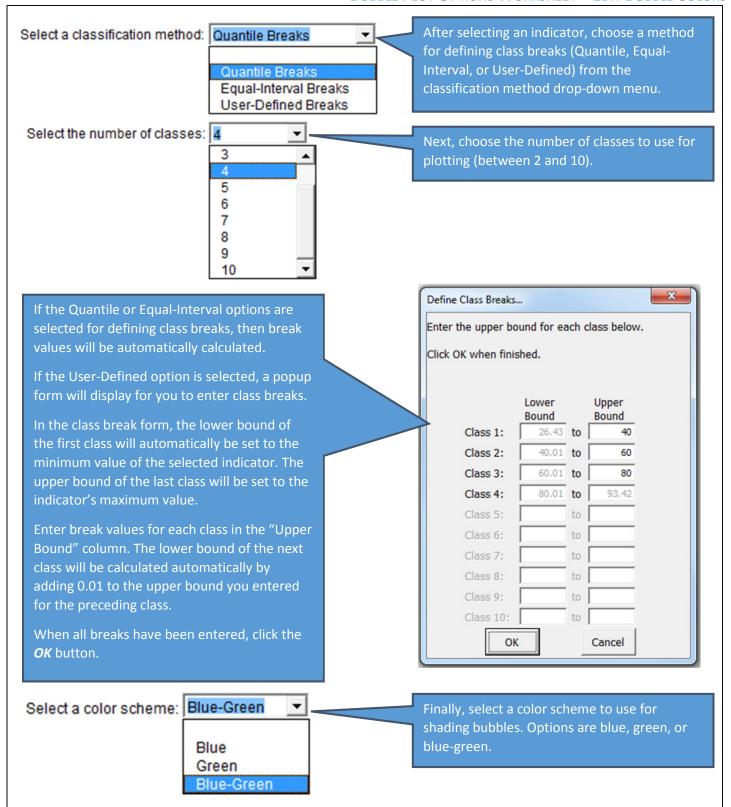
#### 7.6. Edit Bubble Colors

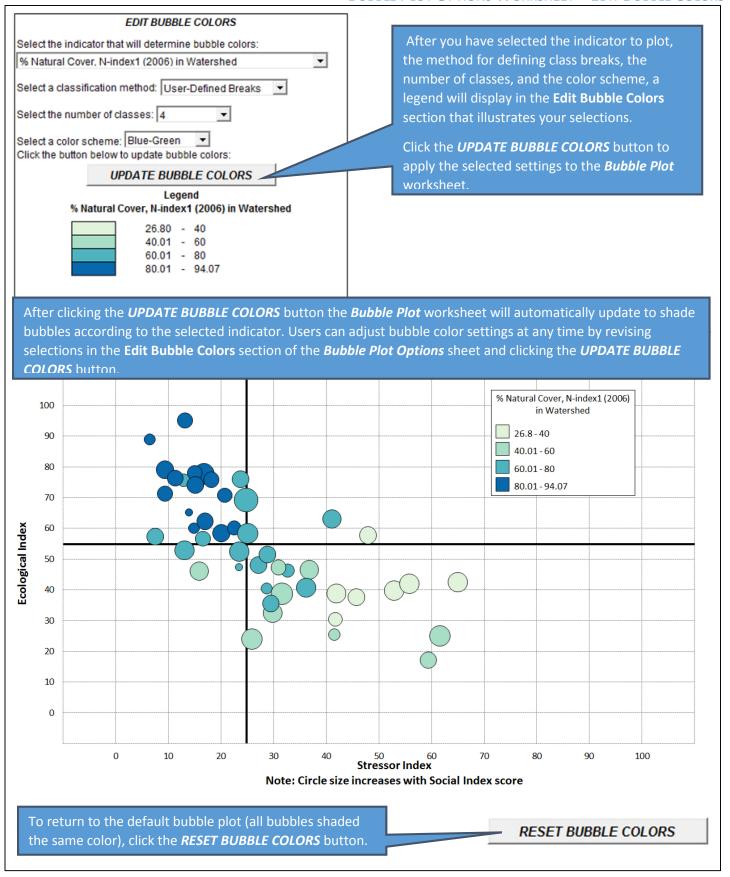
The **Bubble Plot** worksheet displays three pieces of information for each watershed included in your screening: the Ecological Index score on the y-axis, Stressor Index score on the x-axis, and Social Index score using the bubble size. The **Bubble Plot** worksheet can also display a fourth piece of information by shading bubbles different colors to reflect different values of an indicator. This feature is implemented in the **Edit Bubble Colors** section of the **Bubble Plot Options** worksheet.

To display indicator values using bubble colors, users must select the number of **Classes** to display, a method for defining **Class Breaks**, and a **Color Scheme**. These terms are defined below.

- Classes The number of groups or bins to separate watersheds into. Up to 10 classes can be selected.
- Class Breaks The cutoff indicator values used to define class membership. Three options are available for defining class breaks:
  - Quantile Breaks result in classes that have an equal number of watersheds. For example, if four classes are selected then then quantile breaks option would result in each class containing one-quarter of the total number of watersheds using the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of indicator values as class breaks.
  - Equal-Interval Breaks result in classes that cover an equal range of indicator values. For example, if four classes are selected for an indicator with a minimum value of 0% and a maximum value of 100%, then the equal-interval breaks option would result in each class spanning 25 percentage points use values of 25%, 50%, and 75% as class breaks. Under the equal-interval option, the definition of breaks is independent of the number of watersheds within each class. Depending on the distribution of indicator values, some classes may contain zero watersheds.
  - User-Defined Breaks are supplied by the user.
- Color Scheme The primary color(s) used to shade bubbles. Options are blue, green, or blue-green.

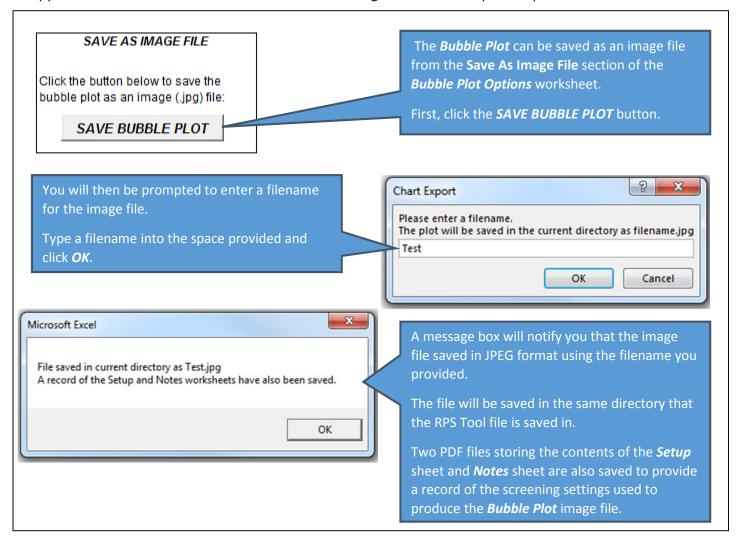






# 7.7. Save As Image File

A copy of the **Bubble Plot** worksheet can be saved as an image file for use in reports or presentations.

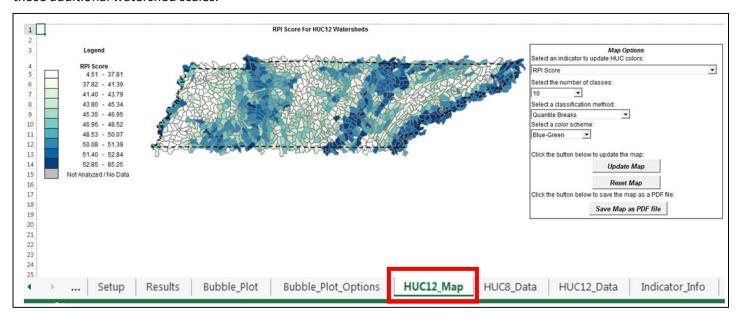


# 8. Map Worksheet

# 8.1. Overview

The *Map* worksheet that displays screening results in map form. The *Map* worksheet is automatically created when the *RUN SCREENING* button is clicked on the *Setup* worksheet. By default, the *Map* worksheet displays Recovery Potential Integrated (RPI) index scores.

The name of the *Map* worksheet displayed in the bottom tab of your RPS Tool will reflect the scale of watersheds selected for screening. For example, if you screened HUC12 subwatersheds then the *Map* worksheet will be named *HUC12\_Map*. Most RPS tools have a map worksheet for HUC12 subwatersheds and, if the tool is also setup to screen HUC8 watersheds, a map HUC8s. RPS Tools that are setup to screen other watershed scales may not have a map for those additional watershed scales.



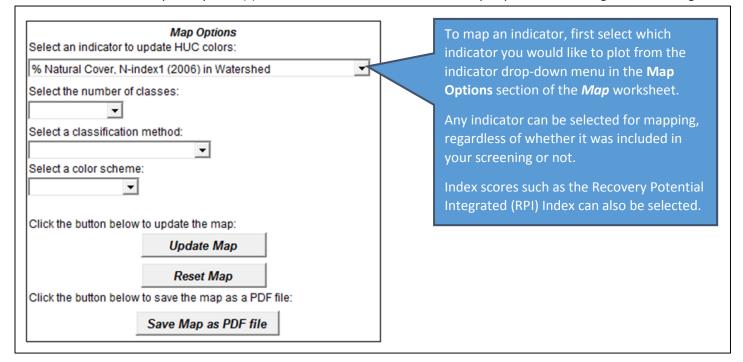
The following sections describe how to:

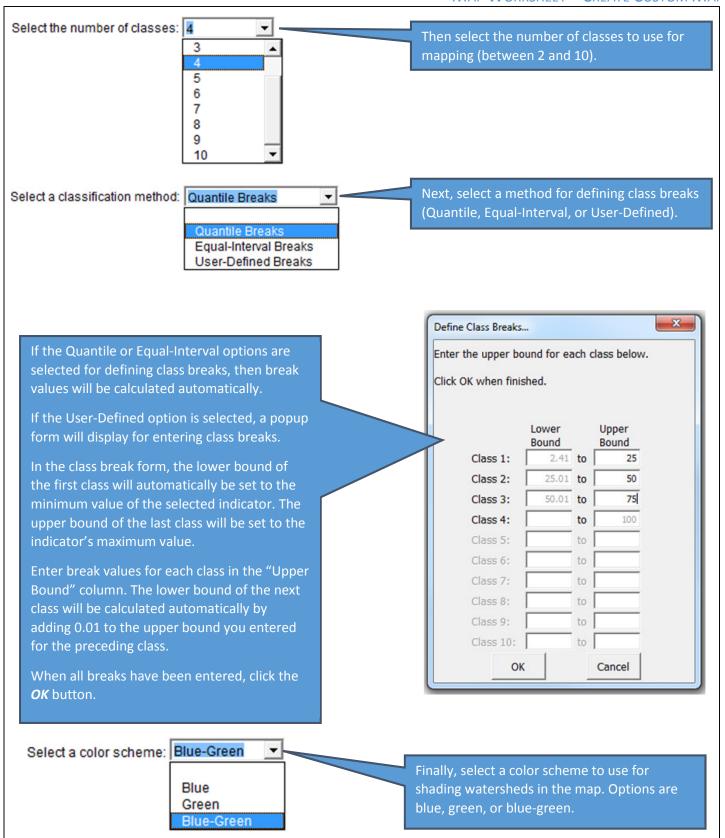
- Create a Custom Map
- Save the Map as a PDF File

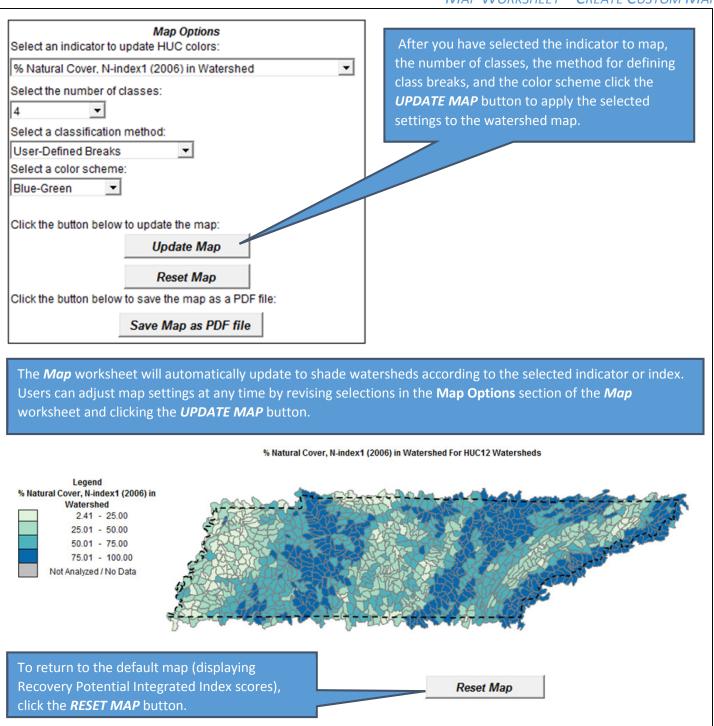
# 8.2. Create Custom Map

Users can customize the *Map* worksheet to shade watersheds on the map using any indicator or index. To customize the *Map* worksheet, users must select the number of *Classes* to display, a method for defining *Class Breaks*, and a *Color Scheme*. These terms are defined below.

- Classes The number of groups or bins to separate watersheds into. Up to 10 classes can be selected.
- Class Breaks The cutoff indicator values used to define class membership. Three options are available for defining class breaks:
  - Quantile Breaks result in classes that have an equal number of watersheds. For example, if four classes are selected then the quantile breaks option would result in each class containing one-quarter of the total number of watersheds using the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of indicator values as class breaks.
  - Equal-Interval Breaks result in classes that cover an equal range of indicator values. For example, if four classes are selected for an indicator with a minimum value of 0% and a maximum value of 100%, then the equal-interval breaks option would result in each class spanning 25 percentage points using values of 25%, 50%, and 75% as class breaks. Under the equal-interval option, the definition of breaks is independent of the number of watersheds within each class. Depending on the distribution of indicator values, some classes may contain zero watersheds.
  - User-Defined Breaks are supplied by the user.
- Color Scheme The primary color(s) used to shade watersheds on the map. Options are blue, green, or blue-green.

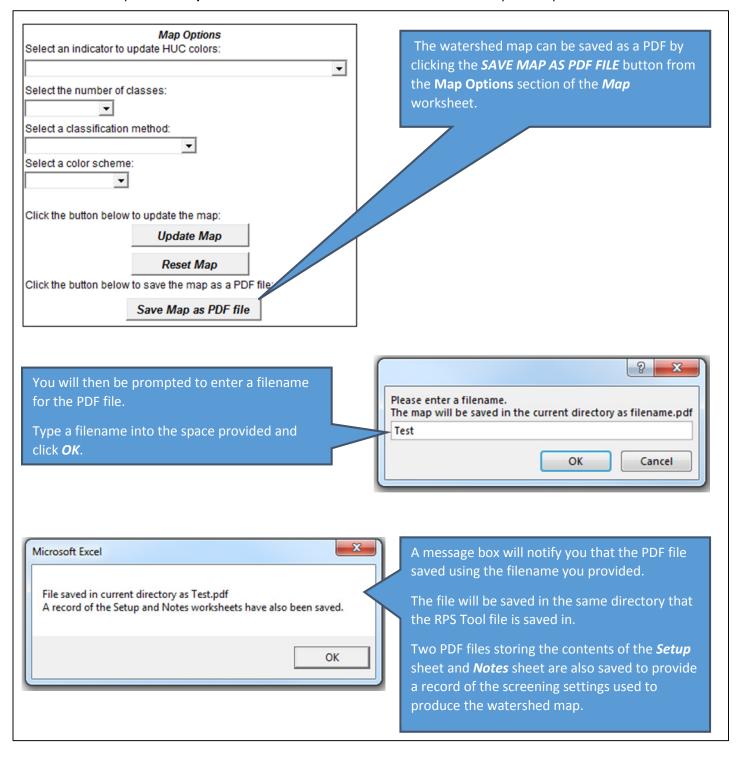






# 8.3. Save Map as PDF File

The watershed map on the *Map* worksheet can be saved as a PDF file for use in reports or presentations.



# 9. Indicator Data Worksheet(s)

The *Indicator Data* worksheet contains a table of indicator values for all watersheds in the Project Area covered by your RPS Tool file.

Indicators are grouped by category in the *Indicator Data* worksheet and are ordered from left-to-right as Base, Ecological, Stressor, and Social indicators. Indicator categories are displayed in row 6. Indicator names are displayed in row 7.

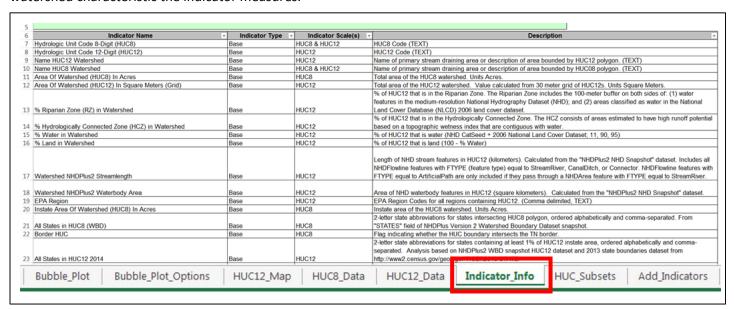
The name of the *Indicator Data* worksheet displayed in the bottom tab of your RPS Tool will reflect the watershed scale of the indicator data it stores. For example, the *Indicator Data* worksheet for HUC12 subwatersheds is named *HUC12\_Data*. If your tool file includes multiple watershed scales (e.g., both HUC8 and HUC12) then it will contain multiple *Indicator Data* worksheets, one for each scale (e.g., *HUC8\_Data* and *HUC12\_Data*).

6 <b>E</b>	ASE INDICATORS			Π			T		
, H	ydrologic Unit Code 12-Digit (HUC12)	Name HUC12 Watershed		Area (	Of Watershed (HUC	:12) In Square Meters (0	Grid)	% Riparian Zone	e (RZ) in Watershe
	31501010101	Headwaters Conasuaga River				95344200.	0000		23.677
0	31501010102	Jacks River				127184400.	.0000		21.752
0 0	31501010103	Ball Play Creek-Conasauga River				77161500.	0000		26.560
	31501010104	Old Fort Creek-Mill Creek				63687600.			22.583
	31501010105	Perry Creek-Conasuaga River				54007200.			25.634
	31501010106	Sugar Creek				52865100.			24.060
	31501010301	Coahulla Creek Headwaters				117395100.	0000		29.03
	31501010302	Mills Creek				34851600.			23.60
5 0	31501010303	Coahulla Creek				67117500.	0000		23.23
7 0	50500010102	Big Laurel Creek				75533400.	0000		24.23
3 0	50500010103	Headwaters North Fork New River				107905500.	0000		19.60
9 0	50500010105	Big Horse Creek				91665000.	0000		21.55
	51100020101	Little Trace Creek-Line Creek				102894300.	.0000		19.61
	51100020102	Trace Creek-Line Creek				75423600.	.0000		21.08
2 0	51100020105	Long Fork				162519300.	0000		22.43
3 0	51100020106	Salt Lick Creek				144657000.	0000		24.20
1 0	51100020108	Puncheon Creek				75887100.	0000		18.40
5 0	51100020109	Sugar Creek-Barren River				93788100.	.0000		22.14
	51100020201	Upper Long Creek				134667000.			17.96
7 0	51100020203	Pinchgut Creek-Barren River				75322800.	0000		21.84
3 0	51100020501	Headwaters Trammal Creek				66985200.	0000		20.32
9 0	51100020502	Rough Creek-Trammel Creek				62374500.	0000		18.67
	51100020503	Little Trammel Creek				70362900.	0000		19.40
		West Fork Drakes Creek Headwaters				138340800.			19.18
	51100020602	Sharps Branch-West Fork Drakes Creek				136977300.			14.36
	51100020604	Dutch Creek-Middle Fork Drakes Creek	•		•	148890600.			17.999
	51100020605	Sulphur Fork Creek				115533000.			16.36
5 0	51301010201	Little Yellow Creek-Yellow Creek				140000000	0000		17.81

# 10. Indicator Info Worksheet

# 10.1. Overview

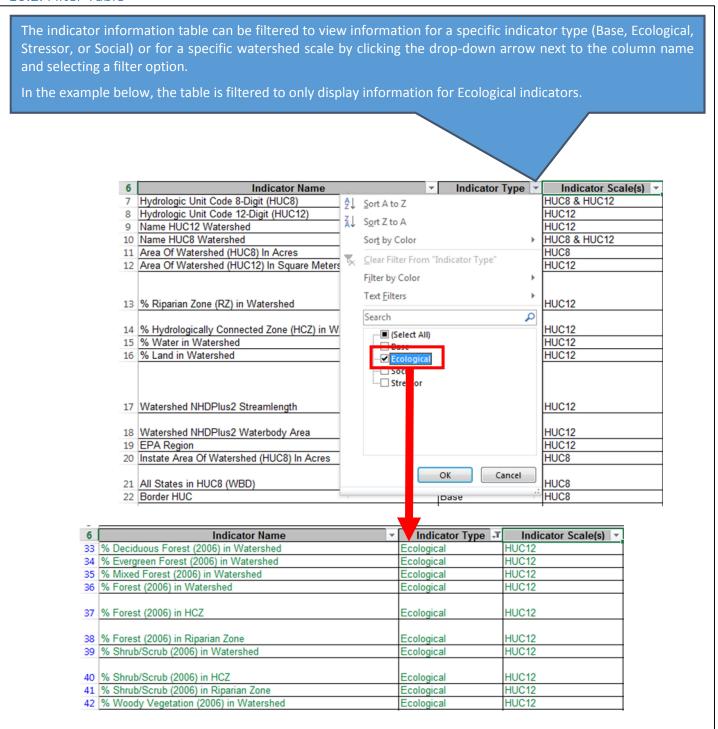
The *Indicator Info* worksheet contains a table of indicator information, including the category of each indicator (Base, Ecological, Stressor, or Social), the watershed scale(s) that each indicator is quantified at, and a description of what watershed characteristic the indicator measures.



The following sections describe how to:

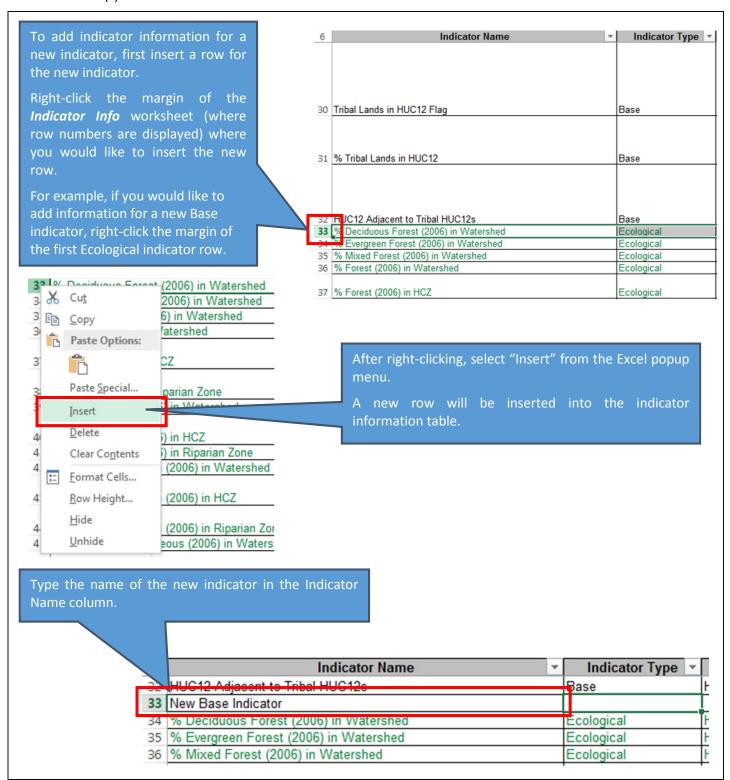
- Filter the Indicator Info Table
- Add Indicator Info

# 10.2. Filter Table



#### 10.3. Add Indicator Info

The *Indicator Info* worksheet can be updated by users to store information for new indicators added to the *Indicator Data* worksheet(s).



Type the category of the new indicator (Base, Ecological, Stressor, or Social) in the Indicator Type column.

6	Indicator Name	~	Indicator Type 🔻
32	HUC12 Adjacent to Tribal HUC12s		Base
33	New Base Indicator		Base
34	% Deciduous Forest (2006) in Watershed		Ecological
35	% Evergreen Forest (2006) in Watershed		Ecological
36	% Mixed Forest (2006) in Watershed		Ecological

Type the watershed scale of the new indicator in the Indicator Scale(s) column. For example, if the indicator is calculated for HUC12s in the Project Area then type "HUC12".

6	Indicator Name	Ina or Type	Indicator Scale(s)					
32	HUC12 Adjacent to Tribal HUC12s	Base	HUC12					
33	New Base Indicator	Base	HUC12					
34	% Deciduous Forest (2006) in Watershed	Ecological	HUC 12					
35	% Evergreen Forest (2006) in Watershed	Ecological	HUC12					

Type a description of the new indicator in the Indicator Description column.

6	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	ator Scale(s)	Description
3	HUC12 Adjacent to Tribal HUC12s	Base	HUC12	Reservation Trust Lands, and Census O
3	New Base Indicator	Base	HUC12	Example new Base indicator.
3	% Deciduous Forest (2006) in Watershed	Ecological	HUC12	% of HUC12 with deciduous forest cover
3	% Evergreen Forest (2006) in Watershed	Ecological	HUC12	% of HUC12 with evergreen forest cover

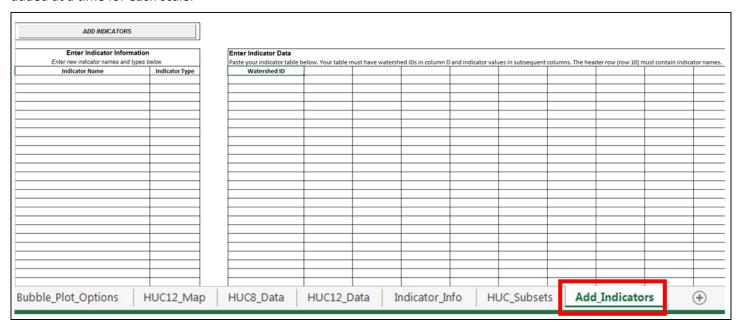
Repeat these steps for each new indicator added to the *Indicator Data* worksheet.

# 11. Add Indicators Worksheet

# 11.1. Overview

New indicators can be added to the RPS Tool from the *Add Indicators* worksheet for use in a screening run. Note that the RPS Tool does not include features for <u>calculating</u> new indicators. New indicators must be calculated outside of the RPS Tool and, once calculated, can be added at any time. New indicators are inserted into new columns on the *Indicator Data* worksheet and will display in the indicator menus on the *Setup*, *Bubble Plot Options*, and *Map* worksheets.

If your RPS Tool file is setup to screen multiple watersheds scales then new indicators must be added separately for each watershed scale. For example, if you would like to add new HUC8 indicators and new HUC12 indicators, you must first add the HUC8 indicators, clear the worksheet, and then add the HUC12 scale indicators. Up to 50 indicators can be added at a time for each scale.



The **Add Indicators** worksheet is organized into two sections:

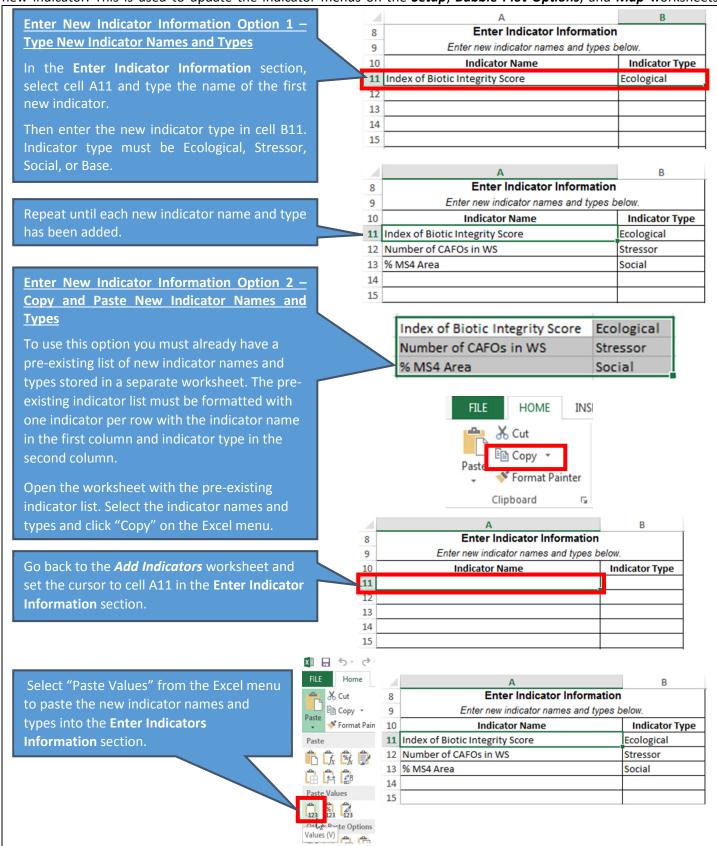
- In the Enter Indicator Information section you will enter a list of new indicator names and types (Ecological, Stressor, Social, or Base).
- In the **Enter Indicator Data** section you will paste in a table of indicator values for watersheds in the Study Area.

The following sections provide step-by-step instructions for how to:

- Enter New Indicator Information
- Enter New Indicator Data
- Use the Add Indicators Button

# 11.2. Enter New Indicator Information

In the **Enter Indicator Information** section of the **Add Indicators** worksheet, you will enter the name and type of each new indicator. This is used to update the indicator menus on the **Setup**, **Bubble Plot Options**, and **Map** worksheets.



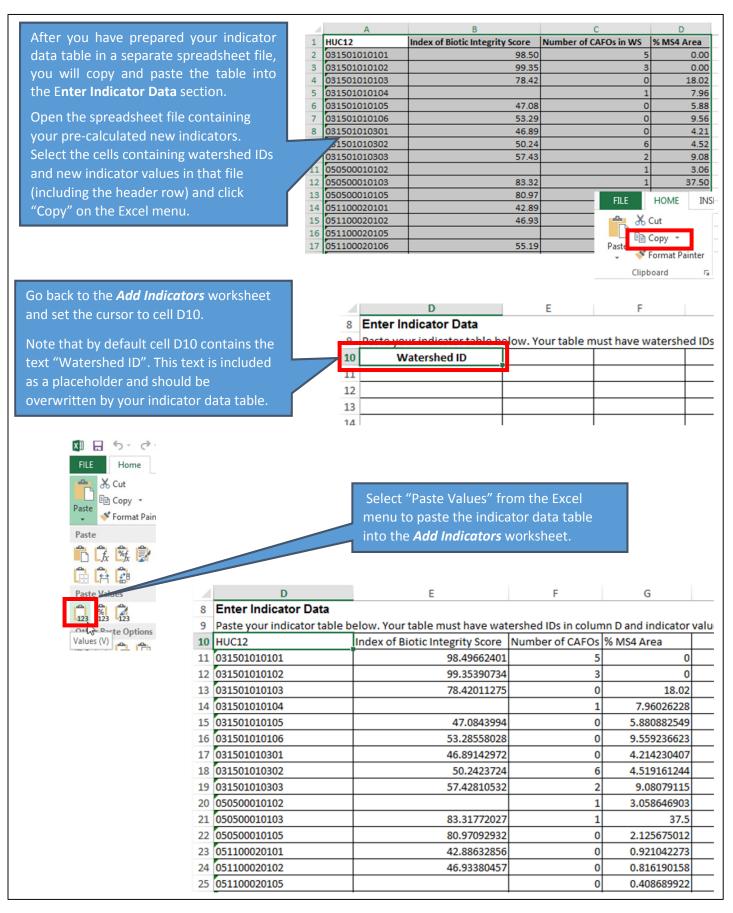
# 11.3. Enter New Indicator Data

In the **Enter Indicator Data** section of the **Add Indicators** worksheet, you will copy and paste a table of new indicator values for watersheds in the Study Area. These values are used to update the indicator data table in the **Indicator Data** worksheet.

To add new indicators, you must first prepare a table of new indicator values in a separate spreadsheet file. An example indicator table is displayed below. Note the following characteristics of the table:

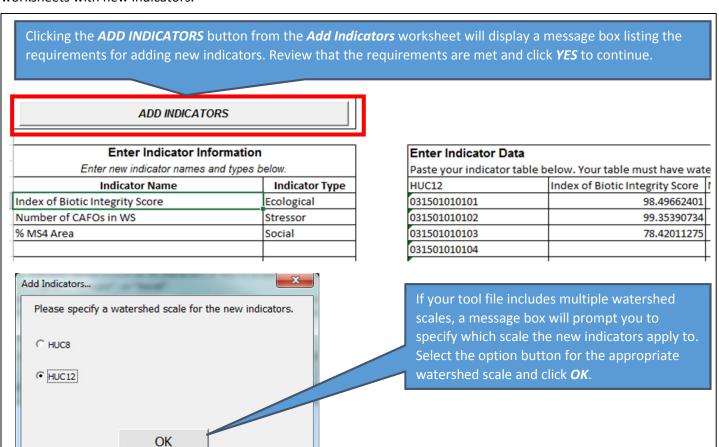
- 1. The table must have watershed IDs entered in the first column. Your table does not need to have a row for every watershed in the study area. Any watersheds that are missing from your table will have blank cells for the new indicators when added to the *Indicator Data* worksheet. Your table can include extra watersheds that are not in the study area; however, those watersheds will be skipped when updating the *Indicator Data* worksheet. Watersheds can be sorted in any order in your table.
- 2. The table must have indicator values in subsequent columns.
- 3. The table must have a header row with indicator names. Names of new indicators cannot match an existing indicator name already in the tool. We recommend limiting indicator names to 50 characters or less to properly display in tool menus.
- 4. Values of new ecological, stressor, and social indicators in your table should be numeric or blank. Non-numeric values will be skipped when updating the *Indicator Data* worksheet. Non-numeric values are allowed for base indicators.

	1				
4	А	В	С	D	
1	HUC12	Index of Biotic Integrity Score	Number of CAFOs in WS	% MS4 Area	
2	031501010101	98.50	5	0.00	
3	031501010102	99.35	3	0.00	
4	031501010103	4 78.42	0	18.02	
5	031501010104		1	7.96	
6	031501010105	47.08	0	5.88	
7	031501010106	53.29	0	9.56	
8	031501010301	46.89	0	4.21	
9	031501010302	50.24	6	4.52	
LO	031501010303	57.43	2	9.08	
1	050500010102		1	3.06	
2	050500010103	83.32	1	37.50	
13	050500010105	80.97	0	2.13	
4	051100020101	42.89	0	0.92	
15	051100020102	46.93	0	0.82	
16	051100020105		0	0.41	
17	051100020106	55.19	1	0.69	
18	051100020108	50.26	0	0.00	
١9	051100020109	50.61	0	0.34	
20	051100020201		0	0.38	
21	051100020203	54.46	2	0.83	
22	051100020501	53.91	0	0.00	



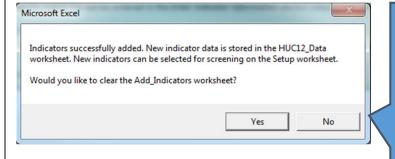
# 11.4. Add Indicators Button

After entering new indicator names, types, and values use the *ADD INDICATORS* button to update the other tool worksheets with new indicators.



The tool will then check to verify that indicator names, types, and values have been correctly entered on the *Add Indicators* worksheet. The tool will also look for potential issues with new indicator data.

If no data issues are found, the new indicators will be automatically added as new columns to the *Indicator Data* worksheet and will be added to menus on the *Setup*, *Bubble Plot Options*, and *Map* worksheets. If issues are identified, an error message will appear.



A message box will appear to notify you that your new indicators were successfully added to the tool file

The message box will prompt you to clear new indicator names, types, and values from the *Add Indicators* worksheet. If you would like to automatically clear the *Add Indicators* worksheet click *YES*. Or click *NO* to clear manually.

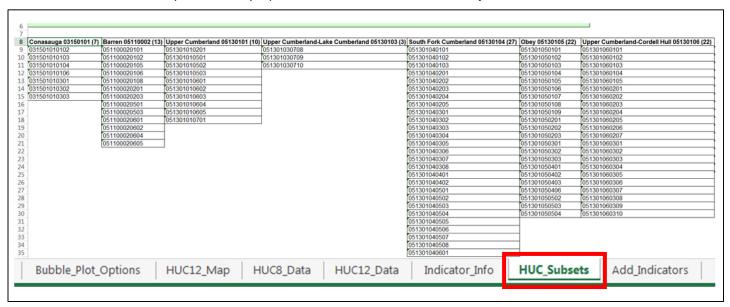
It is strongly recommended that you enter information for the new indicators (name, type, scale, and description) to the *Indicator Info* worksheet. Refer to the *Indicator Info* worksheet section of this guide for instructions on inserting information for new indicators.

# 12. HUC Subsets Worksheet

# 12.1. Overview

The *HUC Subsets* worksheet is provided to store lists of watershed subsets that can be copied and pasted into the **Select Watersheds** section of the **Setup** worksheet for screening.

Watershed subsets are comprised of only a portion of all watersheds in the Project Area.



The following section describes how to Add a Subset List to the HUC Subsets worksheet.

# 12.2. Add a Subset List

