

Restoration and Protection Screening is a systematic method, tool and database that was developed by the EPA to support strategic planning of priority waters and watersheds.

Restoring and protecting the nation's rivers, lakes and coasts is an immense challenge. No single organization has the resources to address water quality threats and challenges across all waters at once. RPS can inform strategic planning to prioritize certain watersheds so that available resources can be focused on areas with the highest needs or where the greatest benefits are likely to occur.

Ecological Indicators

Describe the condition of aquatic ecosystems and related landscape characteristics

Stressor Indicators

Describe risks to subwatershed and aquatic ecosystem health

Social Indicators

Capture societal or programmatic factors that influence watershed management

RPS uses three categories of indicators to compare watersheds. Indicators are combined to calculate Ecological Index, Stressor Index and Social Index scores as well as an overall Restoration and Protection Integrated Index score. Users choose indicators relevant for their specific screening purpose.

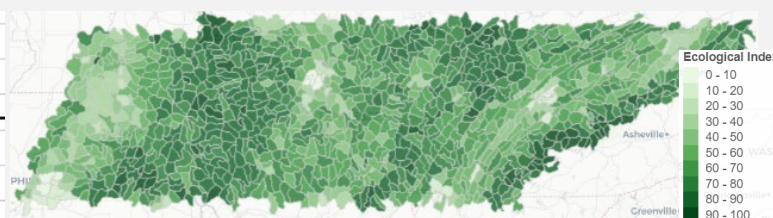
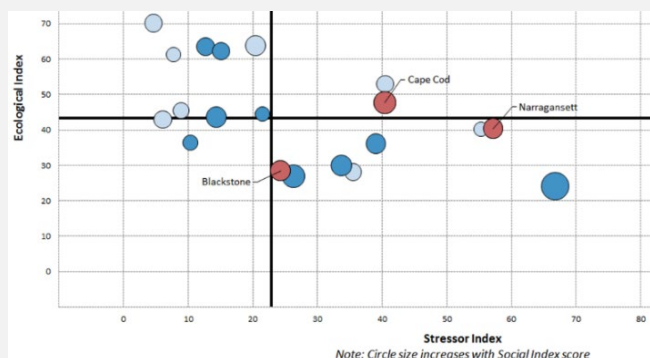
The RPS Tool is a user-friendly resource for setting up a screening to compare watersheds and review results. The RPS Tool is available as both a web application and an Excel-based version.

The RPS Tool is flexible, customizable and available for all states and territories. Users choose which watersheds to screen, from those within a single subbasin or county to an entire state and select indicators that are most relevant to their interests and screening objectives.

The Tool provides access to the RPS Indicator Database, which includes ecological, stressor and social indicator data compiled for roughly 83,000 HUC12 subwatersheds across the conterminous United States. The RPS Tool also includes the following features:

- Automatically calculates RPS index scores and ranks for the screened watersheds
- Displays results in customizable maps, plots and tables
- Can be readily updated with new, user-generated indicator data

EPA provides technical assistance to states, territories, Tribes and other partners to customize and apply the tool.



The RPS Tool displays customizable maps, plots, and data tables to allow users to explore and understand screening results.