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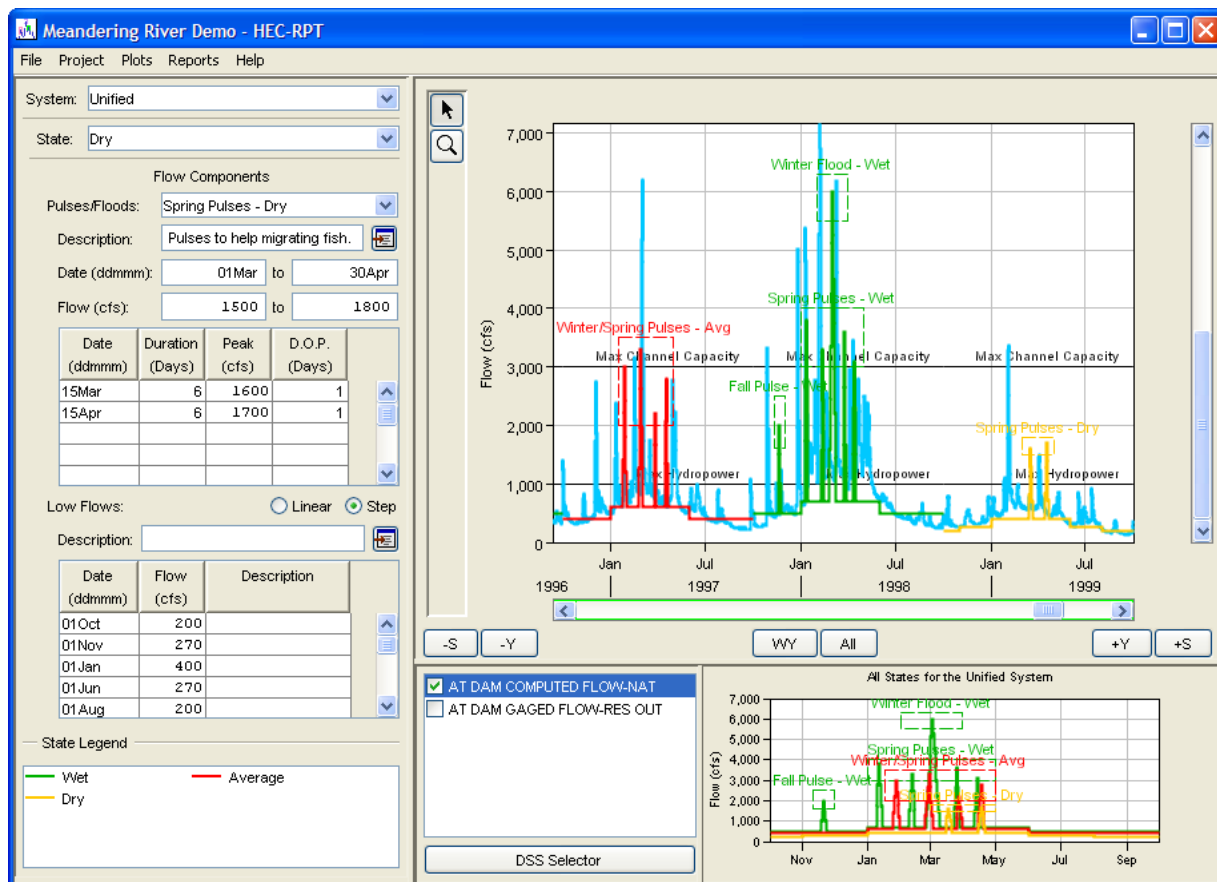
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**The Nature  
Conservancy**   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

# HEC-RPT

*Software for defining and assessing ecological flow recommendations*

HEC-RPT (Regime Prescription Tool) is a new software tool designed to help different interest groups reach consensus about how rivers should be managed. The idea for this software was conceived during a workshop for the Savannah River, where nearly 50 scientists worked together to formulate a set of environmental flow recommendations. Throughout the workshop, many hydrographs were created, discarded, and morphed. Facilitators lacked an easy and efficient way to present the recommendations. It was noted that a tool capable of rapidly displaying, adjusting, and documenting hydrographs would improve the process and more effectively capture the products of the workshop. HEC-RPT is designed to meet these needs by facilitating entry, display, and documentation of flow recommendations and their justifications in real-time, public settings.



HEC-RPT main interface. Flow recommendations are entered/edited in the text along the left side.

## How it Works

The tool plots and compares desired river flows for a range of objectives including flood damage reduction, water supply, hydropower, navigation, and ecosystem maintenance. These flows are defined by the interest groups and presented in a common format, which provides the foundation for resolving areas of conflict.

It is primarily a visualization tool and is not intended to perform the detailed quantitative analyses (e.g., reservoir and river routings) already performed by other software packages. Instead, HEC-RPT seeks to complement those packages by making it easier to create flow times series that other software can import and use in their analyses.

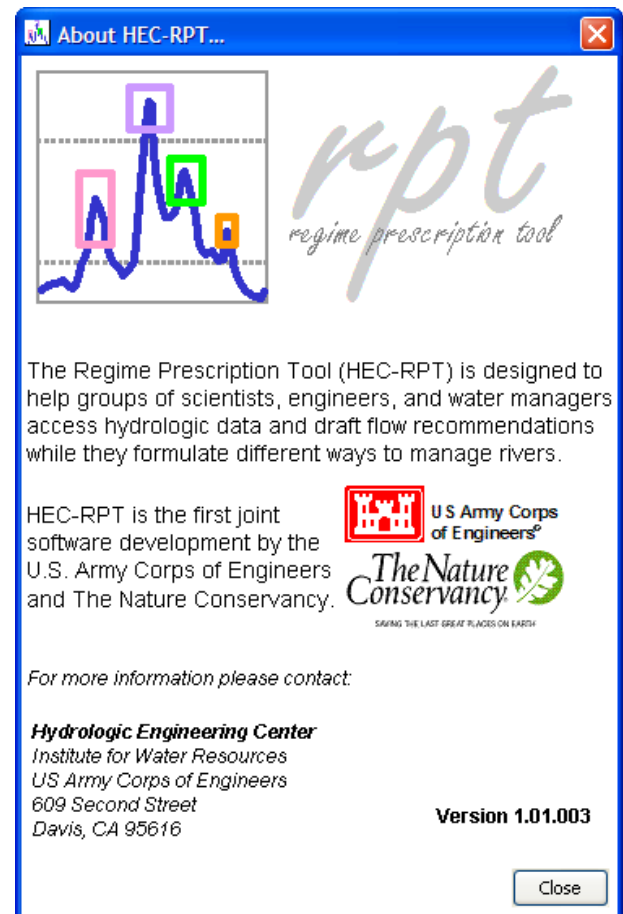
Recommendations scripted in HEC-RPT can be exported for immediate analysis in other software, including reservoir system simulation, river hydraulics, and ecosystem functions.

## Partnership in Action

HEC-RPT is the first joint software development by the Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) and The Nature Conservancy and was created in support of the Sustainable Rivers Project - an ongoing nation-wide partnership between the Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy to improve the health and life of rivers by changing the operations of Corps dams. For more information about Sustainable Rivers, please go to <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/freshwater/partnership/>.

## Getting the Software

HEC-RPT is available free of charge to anyone who is interested. To download a copy, please go to <http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-rpt/index.html> or <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/freshwater/conservationtools/hecrpt.html>. For more information about HEC-RPT, please contact John Hickey at the Hydrologic Engineering Center ([john.t.hickey@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.t.hickey@usace.army.mil)).



Information about HEC-RPT.