

Help Sheet - Basic HMS Input, Run Setup, Run Model, View Output Sequence

1. Open HMS/Set Program Defaults/Create New Project

- Select HEC-HMS from desktop or browse programs.
- Top menu: Tools – Program Settings – Defaults. Set unit system (U.S. Customary), set Subbasin Loss method (SCS Curve Number), Subbasin transform method (SCS Unit Hydrograph), Subbasin precipitation (Specified Hyetograph)
- Top menu: File – New. Create new project. Set units to “U.S. Customary”


2. Create Basin Model Manager (subbasins, reaches, etc.)

- Top Menu: Components - Basin Model Manager - New. Enter name & Create the basin.
- Watershed Explorer Panel: Expand Basin Models – Select created basin – Desktop Panel should appear

3. Create Paired Data (i.e. Stage/Area for storage areas or Sta/Elev for 8 pt cross sections if needed)

- For example, when modeling a culvert an Elevation-Area or Elevation-Discharge Paired Data will be required.
- Top menu: Components – Paired Data Manager – Select desired Data Type – New. Enter name & Create the data.
- Watershed Explorer Panel: Expand Paired Data – Expand type of paired data – select created paired data
- Component Editor: Select Table Tab – enter data

4. Create Basin (Watershed Elements)

- Add Background Images if desired – View – Map Layers – Add. Select desired shapefile or image.
- Using icons on top toolbar  (subbasin, reach, reservoir, junction, diversion, source, sink), select an element, then click in the Desktop Panel to place watershed element.
- Subbasin may be used for drainage areas, reservoir may be used for culverts, junction may be used for the outlet.

5. Enter Parameters for each element & Make Hydrologic Connections for Each Element

- Watershed Explorer Panel: Expand Basin (Step 2) – Select Watershed Element (Step 4).
- Component Editor Panel: Enter required information for each Watershed Element. **Note: Lag Time = 0.6*Tc.**

6. Create Time Series Data

- Top menu: Components – Time-Series Data Manager. Data Type – Precipitation Gages - New. Enter name (e.g. 24-hour rainfall) & Create Gage.
- Watershed Explorer Panel: Expand Time-Series Data – Expand Precipitation Gages – Select Created Gage.
- Component Editor Panel: Time-Series Gage tab – Data Source: Manual Entry - Unit: Cumulative Inches – Time Interval: 6 minutes
- Component Editor Panel: Time Window tab –needs to be 24 hours. (e.g. 01Jan2000, 00:00, 02Jan2000, 0:00)
- Component Editor Panel: Table tab – Copy & Paste [MSE 3](#) ratio column from excel into Precipitation Column – Ctrl+V for paste in HEC-HMS.


7. Create Meteorological Models

- Top Menu: Components – Meteorological Model Manager – New. Enter name (e.g. MSE3) & Create Model.
- Watershed Explorer panel: Expand Meteorologic Model – Select created Model.
- Component Editor panel: Precipitation – Specified Hyetograph – Gage – select created gage (Step 6).

8. Create Control Specification (Run Start/Stop Time & computation time interval)

- Top Menu: Components – Control Specifications Manager – New. Enter name & Create Control.
- Watershed Explorer panel: Watershed Explorer Panel – Expand Control Specifications – Selected created Control.
- Component Editor Panel: Enter Date & Time information (Must be the same as Start & End time in Step 6). Select Time Interval (typically 6 minutes).

9. Create Run File & Run Model

- Top Menu: Compute – Create Compute – Simulation Run. Follow steps to Create Simulation Run.
- Watershed Explorer Panel: Compute Tab - Expand Simulation Runs – Select created Simulation Run.
- Component Editor Panel: Ratio tab - Ratio Method: Precipitation – Apply to Subbasins: Yes – Ratio: Enter rainfall depth.
- Watershed Explorer Panel: Compute Tab: Select run from Simulation Runs Folder then 

10. View Output

- Watershed Explorer Panel: Results Tab - Select desired Run.
- Select Global Summary or output by individual element.

The screenshot shows the HEC-HMS 4.11 software interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Components, GIS, Parameters, Compute, Results, Tools, and Help. A toolbar below the menu contains various icons, with a red box highlighting a group of icons. The main workspace is divided into several panels:

- Top Menu:** Located at the top of the window, containing the menu bar and toolbar.
- Desktop Panel:** The central area displaying a map of a watershed with a network of reaches and nodes. Nodes are labeled S1, S2, S4, R1, R2, J1, and J2. Outlets are labeled ResHwy7_outlet1 and ResHwy7_outlet2.
- Watershed Explorer Panel:** Located on the left side, showing a tree view of the project structure. The tree includes folders for Basin Models, Meteorologic Models, Control Specifications, Time-Series Data, and Paired Data. Under Basin Models, there is a folder for ResCtyRd7_Basin containing sub-elements S2, Road-TH 89, R2, S1, J1, R1, S4, and Sink-1.
- Component Editor Panel:** Located at the bottom left, showing the configuration for the selected component. The Name is ResCtyRd7_Basin. Other settings include Unit System (U.S. Customary), Sediment (No), Replace Missing (No), Local Flow (No), Unregulated Outputs (No), Flow Ratios (No), and Terrain Data (ResCtyRd7_DEM).
- Message Log Panel:** Located at the bottom right, displaying a log of messages. The messages include:
 - NOTE 10187: Closed project "Project 1" at time 26Aug2024, 17:14:49.
 - NOTE 10008: Begin opening project "ReservationHwy7" in directory "C:_Projects\007_Hwy7_Crossing\HMS\ReservationHwy7" at time 26Aug2024, 17:14:49.
 - NOTE 10019: Finished opening project "ReservationHwy7" in directory "C:_Projects\007_Hwy7_Crossing\HMS\ReservationHwy7" at time 26Aug2024, 17:14:49.

