**Flow Networks and Basin Precipitation**

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**GIS in Water Resources**

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##### Goal

The goal of this exercise is to explore NHDPlus and especially its network capabilities, and also to plot a time distribution of precipitation over the basin and compare that with the time distribution of flow at the outlet.

##### Computer and Data Requirements

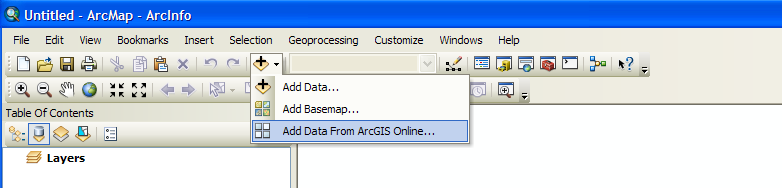
To carry out this exercise, you need to have a computer, which runs the ArcInfo version of ArcGIS version 10.  You are going to get the data for this exercise from ArcGIS.com rather than from a zip file as we have in previous exercises. You will need to be connected to the internet for this exercise.

Ex5.zip contains a geodatabase cut from NHDPlus Region 12, and in this exercise we are going to use the NHD Catchment information at a greater degree of detail than the Watershed Boundary Dataset that we used in Exercises 2. The NHDPlus is based on the National Hydrography Dataset Medium Resolution (1:100,000 scale), which was originally developed by the USGS. More information about the National Hydrography Dataset can be found at <http://nhd.usgs.gov/>. More information about NHDPlus can be found at <http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/>. USGS Streamflow Gages have been snapped to the network, allowing nearly seamless integration between NHDPlus and the National Water Information System (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>). The snapped USGS Streamflow Gages are available through the USGS at <http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/dsdl/USGS_Streamgages-NHD_Locations_GEODB.zip>.

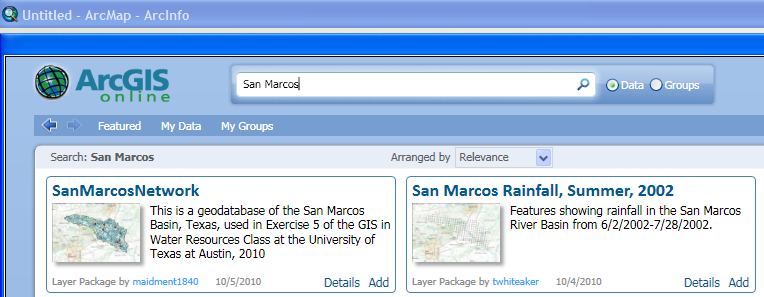
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##### Getting Data from ArcGIS.com

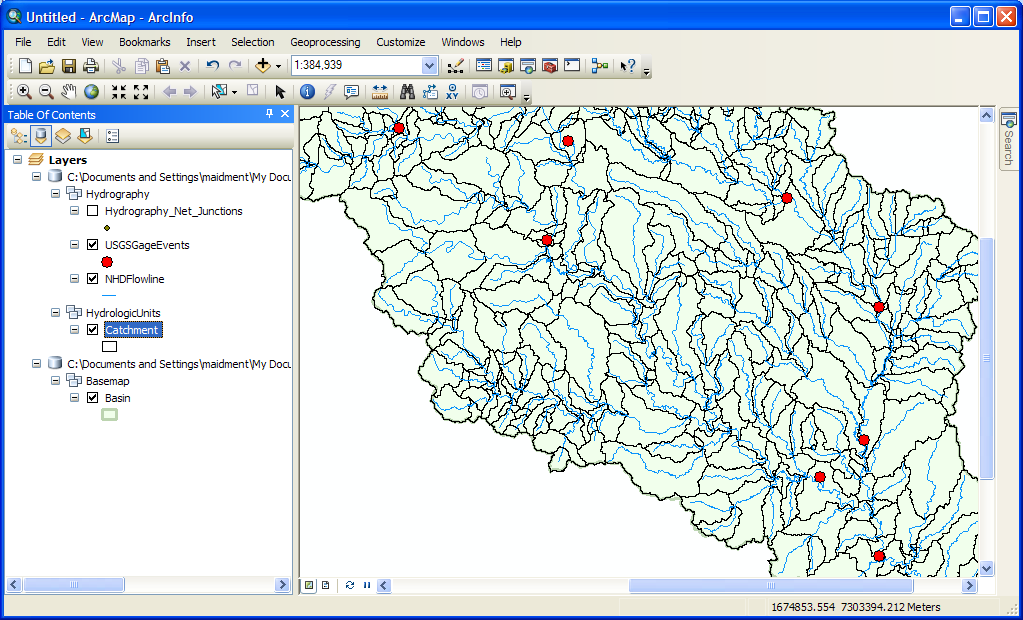
Open ArcMap 10 and create a clear map display. Select **Add Data from ArcGIS Online**



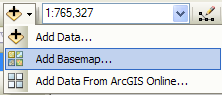
Type **San Marcos** in the Search box and hit return. You’ll see a couple of data sets presented to you as shown below. Select **SanMarcosNetwork** and **Add** it to your map



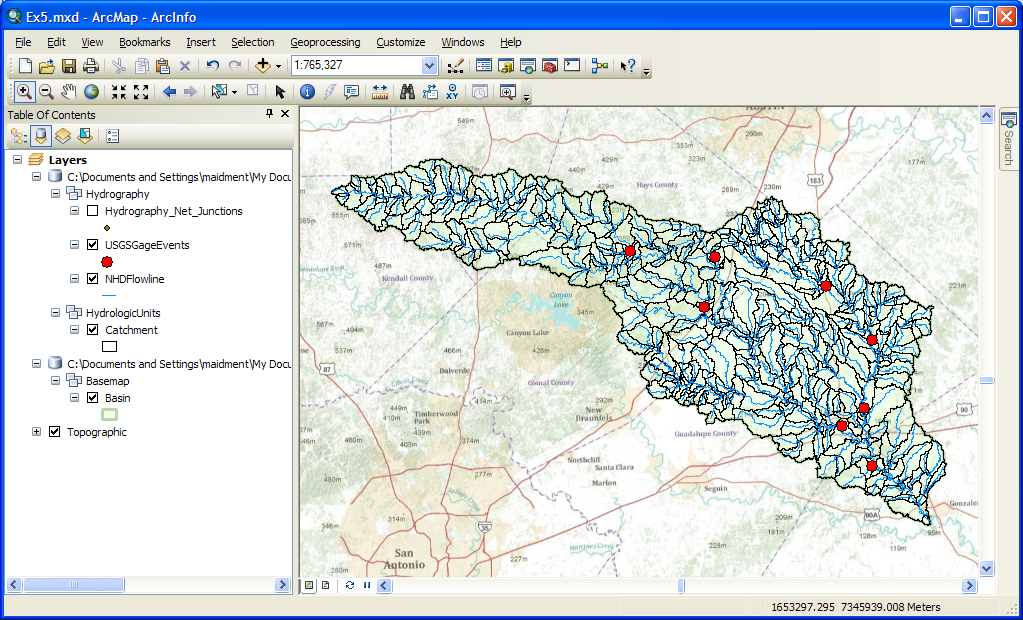
When you add the data to your ArcMap display, you’ll see it appear as below



Right click on the **Basin** feature class and select **Zoom to Layer**. **Add a Basemap** to provide some reference information, use the **Topographic** basemap for this purpose.

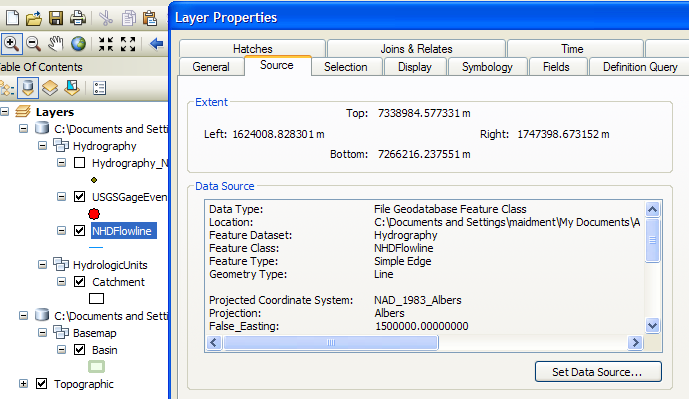


And you’ll produce a nice map display of the San Marcos basin with some background information for reference. Pretty cool! Save your ArcMap file as **Ex5.mxd**.

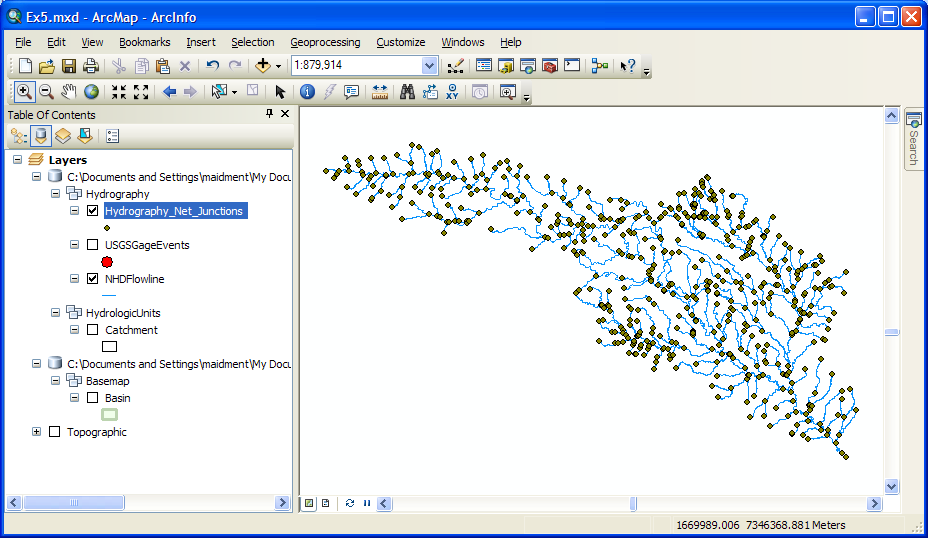


##### Stream Network

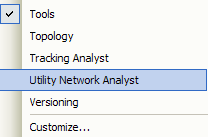
If you right click on the **NHDFlowline** feature class and go to **Layer Properties/Source** you’ll see that the **Feature Type** is **Simple Edge** which means that this is a network feature class.



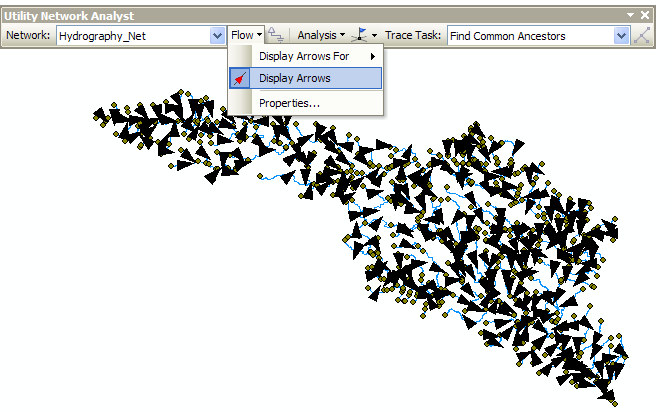
If you turn on the Hydrography\_Net\_Junctions and NHDFlowline feature classes and turn off all the other layers, you’ll see the Edges and Junctions that make up this geometric network.



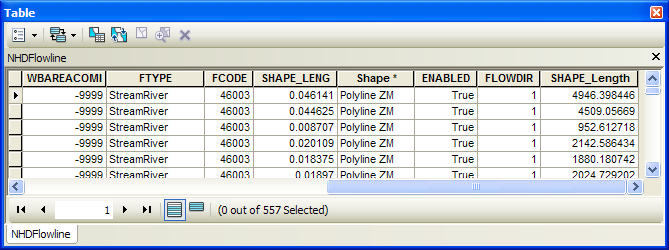
In Arc Map, right click on the grey area to the right of the toobars and select the **Utility Network Analyst** toolbar to add to your display.



Use **Flow/Display Arrows** to symbolize your flow directions.

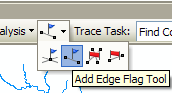


The NHDFlowLines have an attribute **FlowDir** that indicates what direction the flow proceeds on them. In this case, FlowDir = 1 means that the flow direction is the same as the direction of digitization of the lines in the NHDFlowline feature dataset. If you zoom in, you’ll see that all the arrows point downstream.

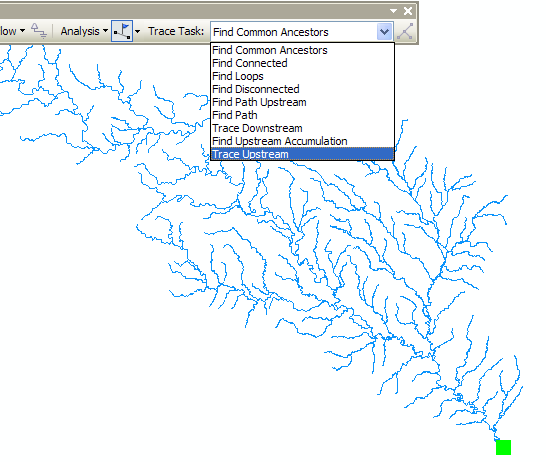


##### Network Tracing

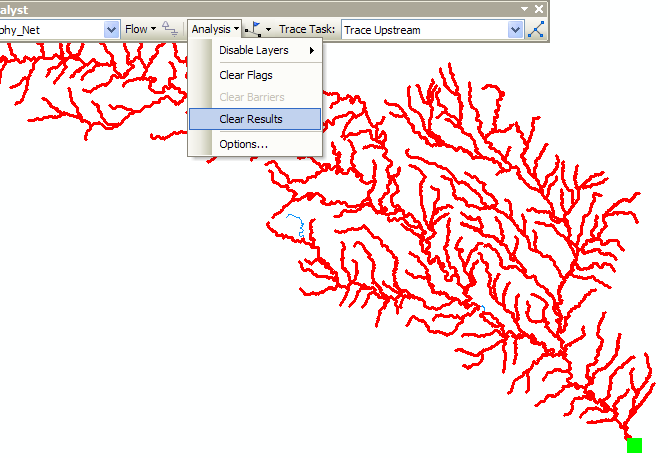
In the **Utility Network Analyst** toolbar, use **Flow/Display Arrows** again to toggle off the flow direction arrows and also click off the display of the generic junctions so you just leave the network itself displayed in Arc Map. Use the **Utility Network Analyst Add Edge Flag Tool**  to add an edge flag near the outlet of the network.



And then select **Trace Upstream** to identify all the upstream edges. Hit the  symbol on the end of the toolbar to initiate the trace.

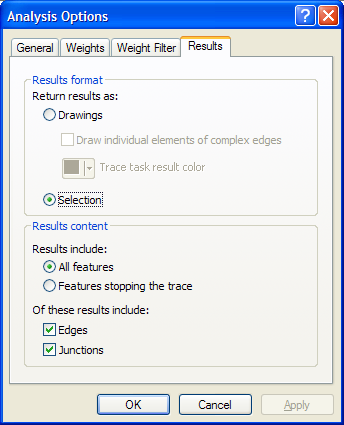


And Voila!! You get this marvelously selected network. You might see a couple of edges that are blue and not selected by the trace. Don’t worry about that. Use **Analysis/Clear Results** to get a clear network again.



If you use, you’ll just get a “bong” noise that indicates that you have no disconnected edges (if sound is turned on on your computer). Ok, Houston, we have liftoff!! Disconnected edges are not good in networks because they require editing to be fixed or they indicate isolated streams whose linkage to the stream network is unknown.

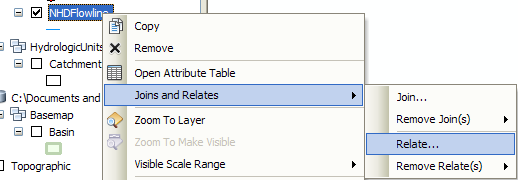
Use **Analysis/Clear Flags** to get rid of the Flag that you laid down, and then **Analysis/Options** to switch the Results from **Drawings** to **Selection**. This has the effect of allowing us to actually select records with network traces, rather than just see a red graphic network as we just did. Click **Apply** and **Ok**, to close out this window.



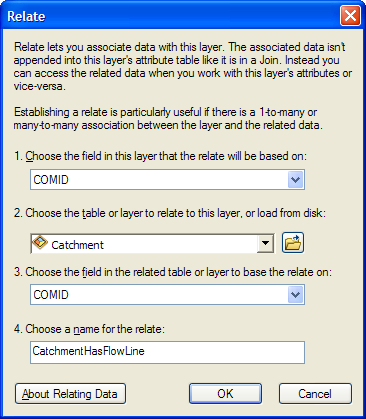
##### Identifying Related Catchments

Using the NHDFlowlines and Catchments feature classes we can find out which catchments are associated with a given USGS gage. To use this capability we first build a relationship between catchments and flowline feature classes. Save your **ArcMap** document as **Ex5.mxd** again.

Right click on the NHDFlowline feature class and select **Joins and Relates/Relate**

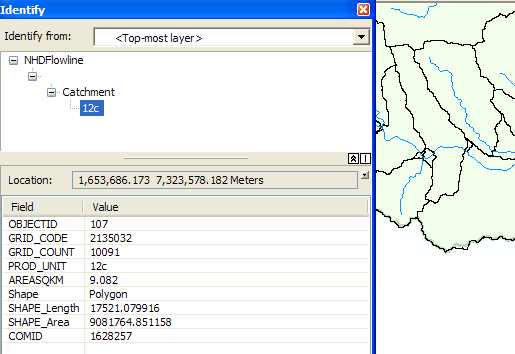


Use **COMID** as the relational field and **Catchment** as the related feature class, **CatchmentHasFlowLine** as the name of the relationship. There is one catchment for each flowline and they both have the same COMID in the NHDPlus dataset.

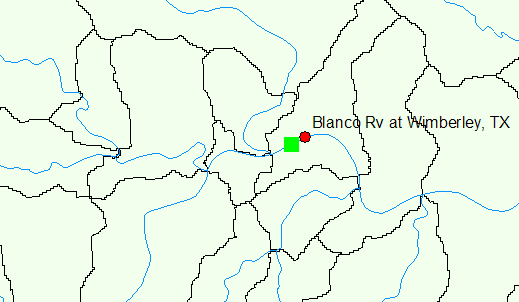


Save your ArcMap document **Ex5.mxd** to preserve the relationship that you’ve just created.

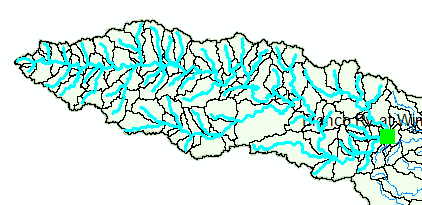
Lets check out our relationship class. Zoom in to somewhere in the basin and click on a Catchment using the Identify tool. You’ll see a window appear and by clicking on the + signs on its left side you can identify which NHDFlowline is related to this Catchment. In the example given below, the COMID is 1628257 and it is the same on the NHDFlowline and on the Catchment that surrounds it. Pretty cool!!



Now lets do a Trace Upstream to select a set of Flowlines. Zoom into the Blanco River at Wimberley, Tx. In the **Utility Network Analyst** Toolbar, Place an **Edge Flag** next to the USGS gage.

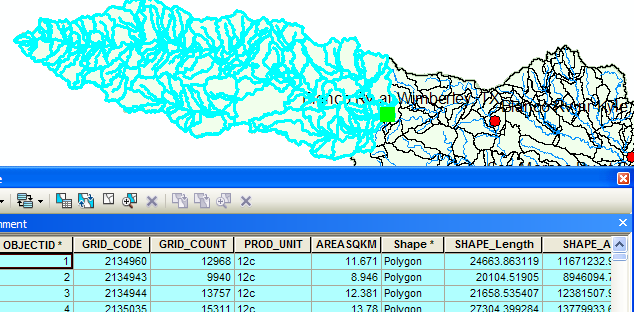


**Trace upstream**. Click the Solve button (Make sure that you have set **Analysis/Options** to **Selection**.)

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This gives you the selection of the flowlines flowing into the USGS gage. To find the catchments that are associated to the USGS gage we will now invoke our relationship class we created previously.

Right click the **NHDFlowline** feature class and open the attribute table. You can see the selected features. Click **Related Tables**. You will see the relationship we created shown as **CatchmentHasFlowline**. Click this relationship.



This opens the Attribute Table of the **Catchment** feature class. You can see that the Catchments related to the selected flowlines are automatically selected. Its likely that you’ll see if you examine it closely that there are slightly more streams than catchments in this selection. That’s because there are some fragmentary very short streams in the NHDPlus dataset. Don’t worry about that.

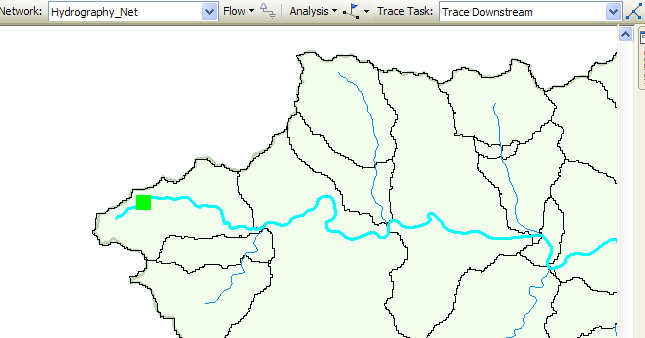
Using this table we can now find the number and the area of the catchments associated with any USGS gage. In the **USGSGageEvents** feature class the Drainage Area in Square Miles of the watershed upstream of the gage is given by the attribute **DA\_SQ\_Mile**. (1 square kilometer = 0.386102 square mile).

*To be turned in: Make a screen capture of the related catchments and flowlines to the USGS gage near the Blanco River at Wimberley. Find the number and the total area of the catchments associated with gaging station. What percent of the total San Marcos basin does this constitute? Compare it with the area given in the USGS gage feature class.*

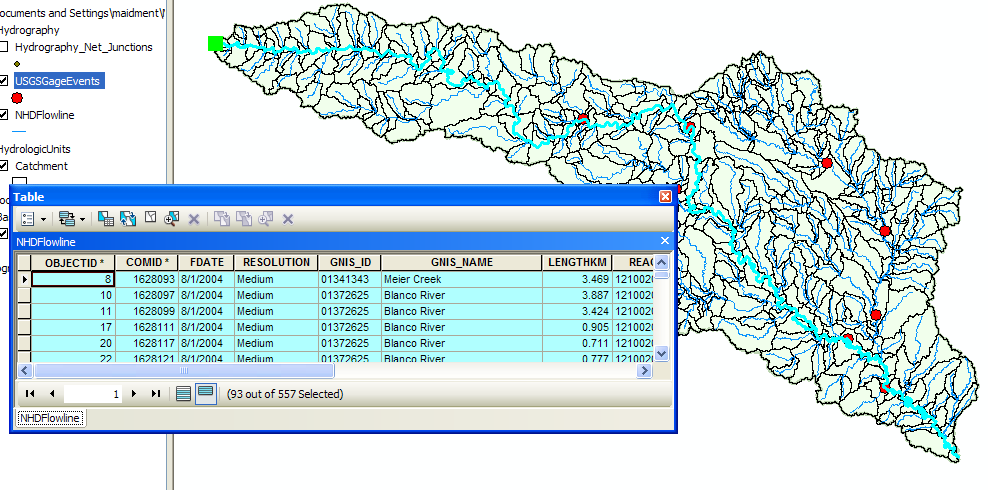
##### Longest Flowpath

Use **Selection/Clear Selected Features** in the ArcMap toolbar to clear all the selections you made in the last section. Use **Analysis/Clear Flags** in the Network Utility Analyst Toolbar to clear the Edge Flag you’ve been using.

Zoom into the top of the network, place an **edge flag** there and execute a **TraceDownstream**

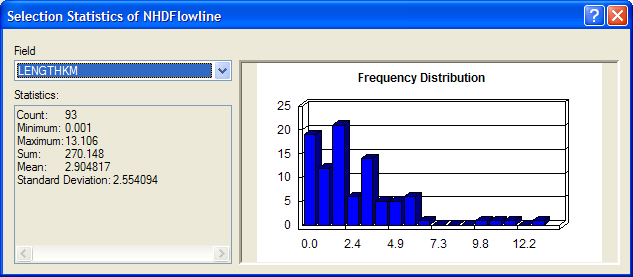


And if you zoom back to the extent of the layer, open its attribute table and hit Selected for the records, you’ll see that 93 of the 557 flowlines in the network have been selected by this process. Hit the **Show Selected Records**  to highlight the selected features.



If you move along to the **LengthKm** attribute, right click on the field and select Statistics. You can get a table of statistics of the selected records, from which you can find the average line length in km and the total length along the flow path that you’ll need shortly.



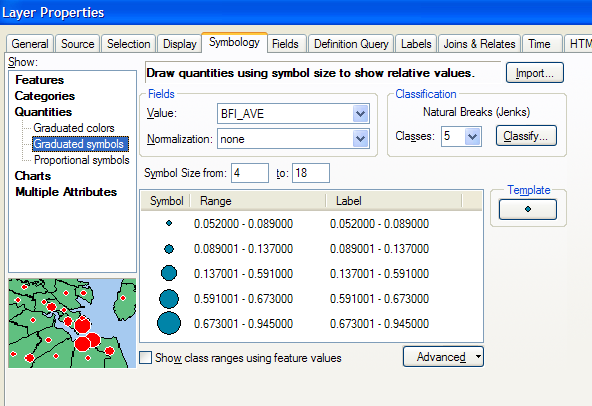


Save again your ArcMap display as **Ex5.mxd** so you can come back and get this information if you need it later.

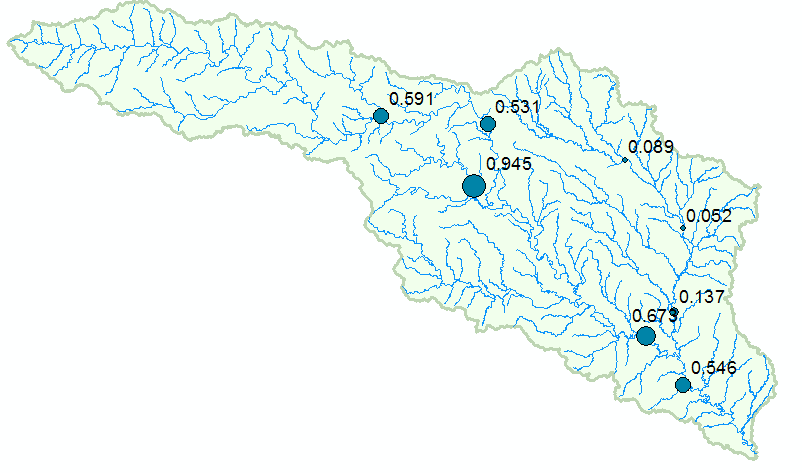
*To be turned in: What is the total flow length from top to bottom of the San Marcos Basin (km). What is the average length of the 93 NHDFlowLines on this flow path (km).*

##### Base Flow Index

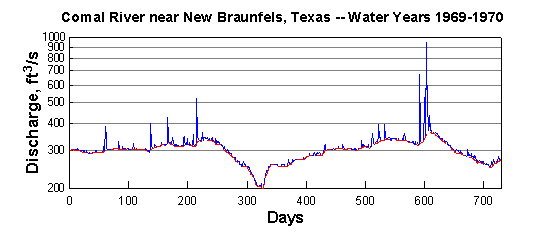
Open the attribute table of the USGSGagEvent feature class. One of the fields present is called **BFI\_Ave**. This refers to the average Annual Base Flow Index (BFI). BFI refers to the percentage of the flow which is Base flow i.e. that part of the [stream](http://amsglossary.allenpress.com/glossary/search?id=stream1) discharge that is not attributable to [direct runoff](http://amsglossary.allenpress.com/glossary/search?id=direct-runoff1) from [precipitation](http://amsglossary.allenpress.com/glossary/search?id=precipitation1) or melting [snow](http://amsglossary.allenpress.com/glossary/search?id=snow1); it is usually sustained by [groundwater](http://amsglossary.allenpress.com/glossary/search?id=groundwater1). The Base Flow Index (BFI) is used as a measure of the base flow characteristics of catchments. It provides a systematic way of assessing the proportion of base flow in the total runoff of a catchment.1 Let’s try and explore it further. We will symbolize the Basin using BFI on the gaging stations. Right click the USGSGagEvents feature class and go to properties. Under the **Symbology** tab go to **Quantities** and pick graduated symbols. In values select **BFI\_Ave** from the drop down menu.



Click **OK**. Go to **Properties/Labels** and set the **Label Field** to be **BFI\_Ave** Right click on the USGSGageEvents feature class and **Label Features** You can produce a display like the one shown below. Increase the Font size so that you can read the values clearly.

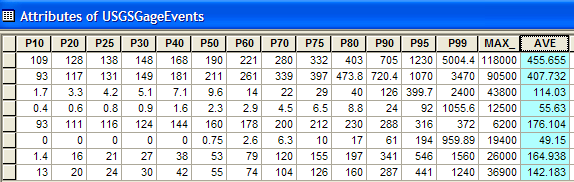


This shows that at some gages 95% of the flow is **Base Flow** while at other locations only 5% is base flow. For more information on how to determine base flow, see <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hydraulics_lab/twahl/bfi/> from which the following picture has been extracted. Base flow is the flow beneath the red line in this graph and surface runoff is the excess flow defined by the difference between the blue line and the red line.

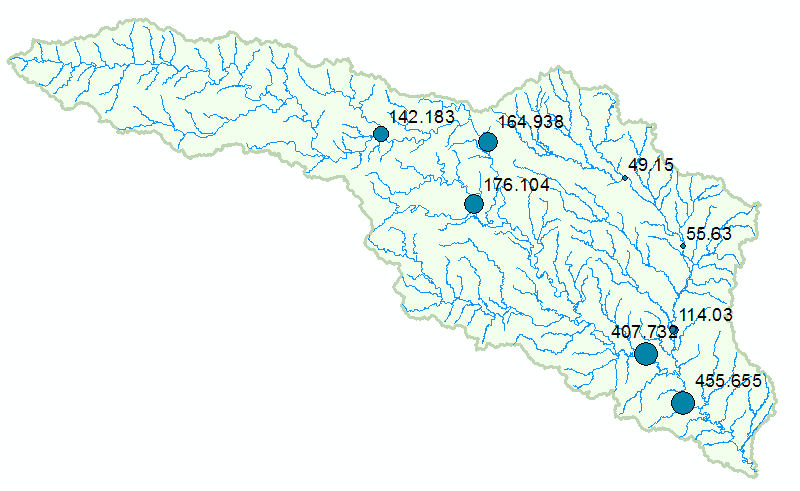


Why should there be so much variation in the base flow in the San Marcos Basin? The stations on the San Marcos river at San Marcos and Luling are right above the Edwards Aquifer and draw significant amounts of water from it to fulfill their needs. Let’s visualize the Edwards aquifer to get a better understanding of this phenomenon.

The mean annual flow in (cfs) at each gage is given by the attribute **AVE** in the **USGSGageEvents** feature class.



If you similarly symbolize and label the map using AVE, you’ll get a result like this:

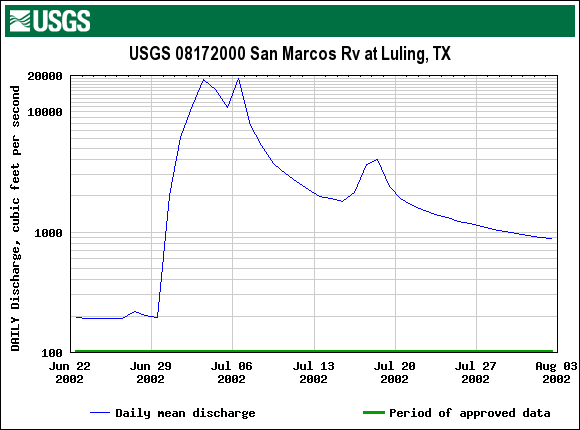


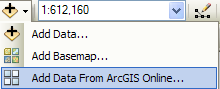
At any gage location, the product of BFI\_Ave \* AVE gives the mean annual base flow in cfs. For example, at the Blanco River at Wimberley, the mean annual base flow is 0.591 \* 142.183 = 84.03 cfs.

*To be turned in: Make a screen capture of the BFI\_Ave points displayed on the basin streams and basin outline as background. Make a table of the 7 stream gages that shows the drainage area and mean annual base flow for each gage. Comment on the values in this table. Are they consistent?*

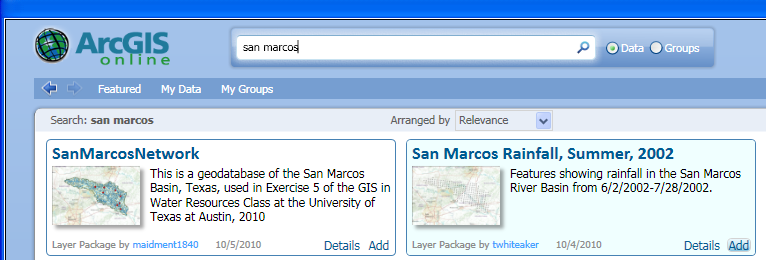
**Storm Precipitation**

We are going to create a time series of precipitation for a storm over the San Marcos basin that created a big flood in July of 2002. Here is a graph from the USGS NWIS site of the flow during this period of the San Marcos River at Luling. You’ll see that there is a main peak in the flood flows in early July and then a secondary peak about July 18 after more rain fell.

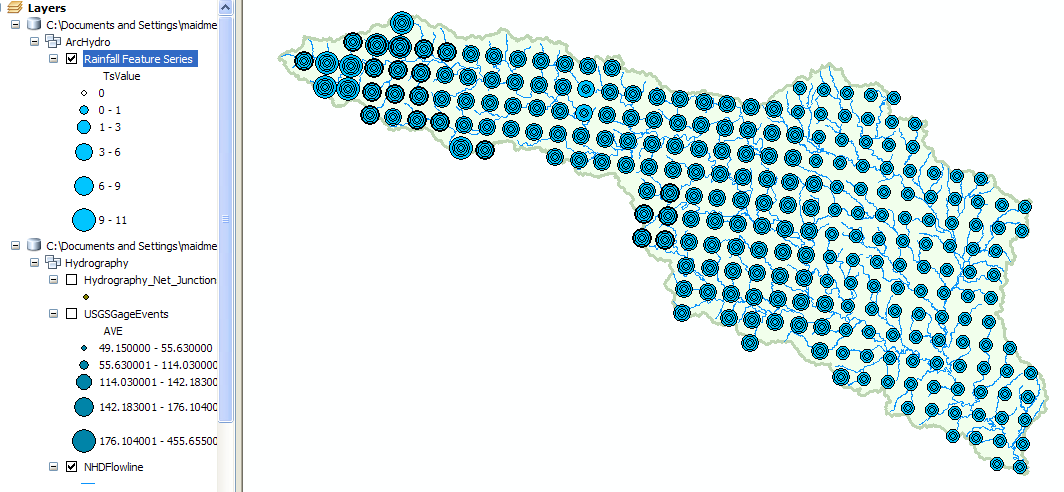


Lets go back and get some more data from ArcGIS Online. 

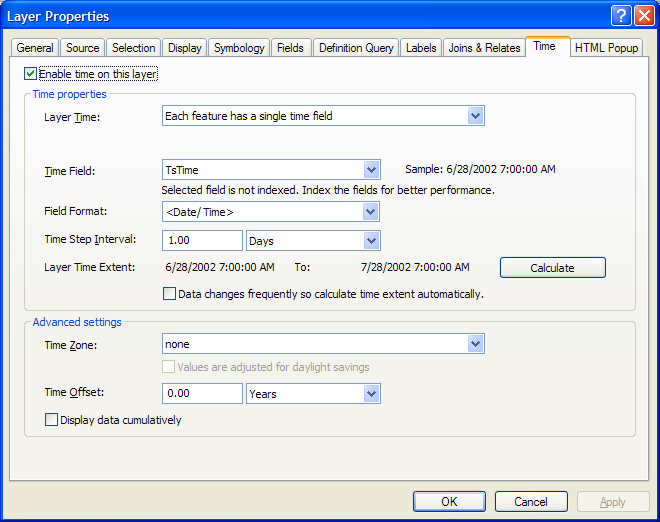
Search again for data about **San Marcos**, choose to **Add** the **San Marcos Rainfall, Summer, 2002.**



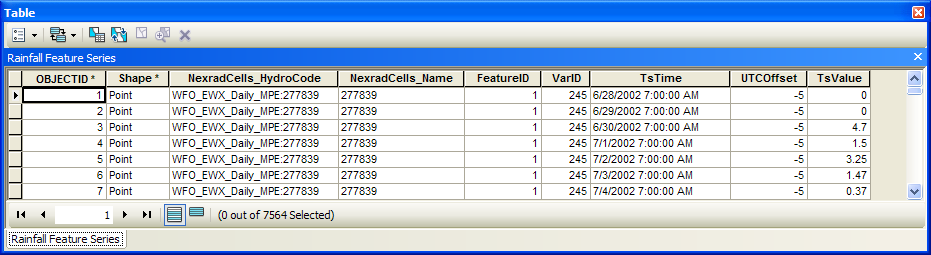
The data that are added, called **Rainfall Feature Series** are a **Time-Enabled Feature Layer** in ArcGIS 10.



Time-Enabled Feature Layers are a pretty important innovation that is new in ArcGIS version 10, so lets take a look at what this means. If you right click on the **Rainfall Feature Series** layer and open its **Properties,** you’ll see a **Time** tab that is new in ArcGIS 10. As shown below, it identifies a field, called TsTime that defines the time field of these data and specifies that these data are regularly measured with an interval of 1 day.

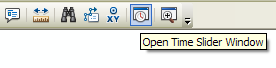


If you open the attribute table of this layer, you’ll see the following. This is an Arc Hydro II time series table which has been joined onto the features that its time values describe. In this case, they are Nexrad radar rainfall multisensor precipitation obtained from a WaterML web service hosted by the University of Texas at Arlington (Dr John McEnery) using precipitation data provided by the National Weather Service’s West Gulf River Forecast Center in Fort Worth. The rainfall data were obtained using HydroDesktop and converted to an ArcGIS feature layer with a ModelBuilder script developed by Tim Whiteaker and Fernando Salas.

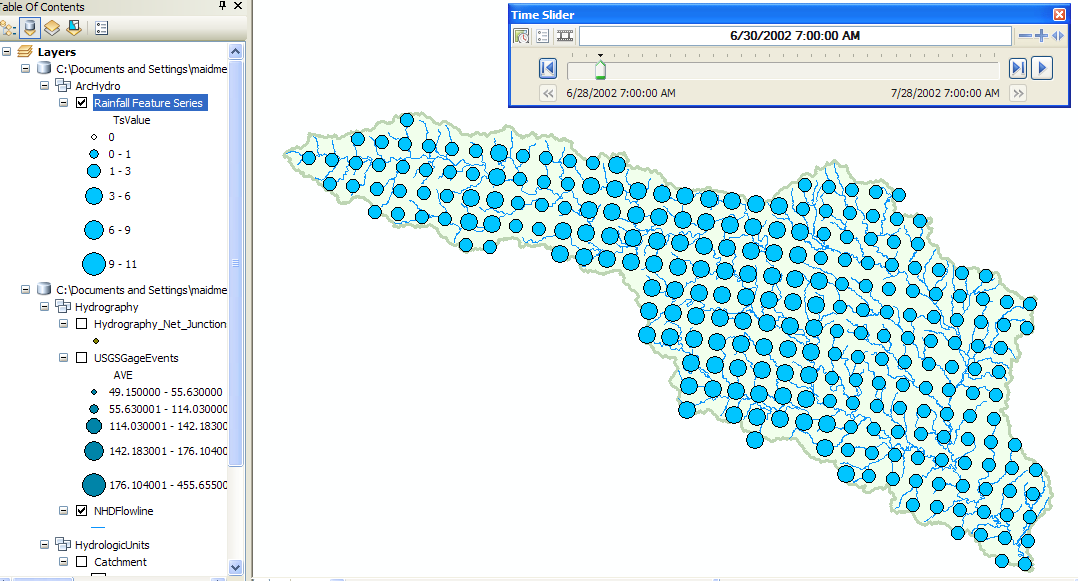


There is a rainfall value (TsValue) for each Nexrad cell (FeatureID) and time step (TsTime). In other words, each record in the attribute table represents a unique point in space and time, not just in space as we have used before.

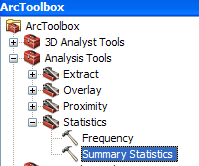
To visualize these data as they evolve through time, open the **Time Slider** window:



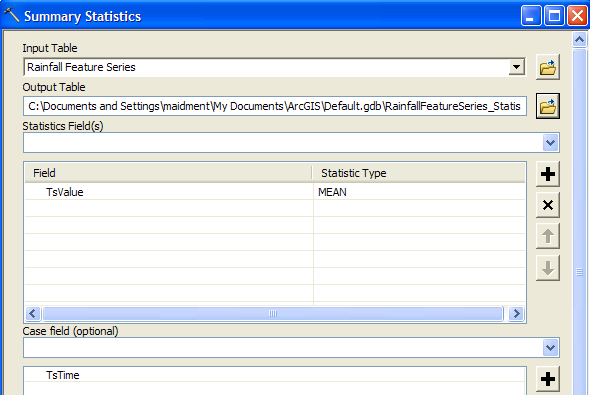
And cycle through the daily rainfall maps in this storm. This was a serious flood! There is heavy rain throughout the basin on June 30.



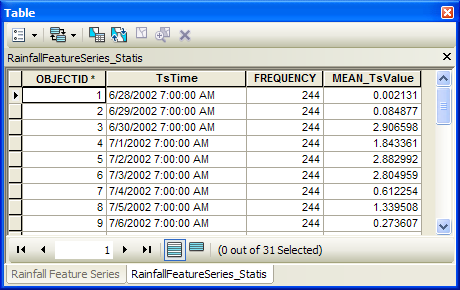
Open **ArcToolbox**  and select the Summary Statistics tool



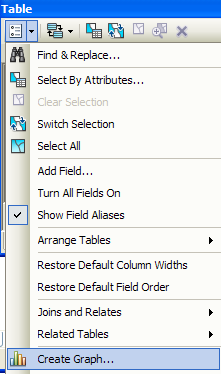
Select **Rainfall Feature Series** as the **Input Table**, **TsValue** as the **Statistics Field**, **MEAN** as the **Statistic Type**, and **TsTime** as the **Case Field**.

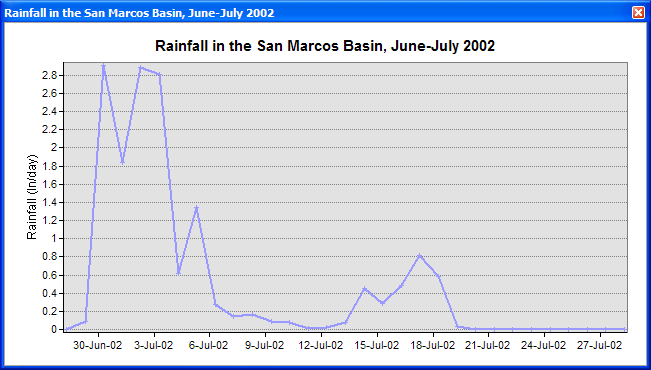


Wait a couple of minutes for this computation to complete. This produces a statistics table that specifies the basin average rainfall for each day of the storm.



Create a graph of these data.





*To be turned in: Make a layout combining a map of the rainfall distribution for June 30 with a graph of the distribution of rainfall through time averaged over the basin. What is the maximum rainfall daily amount in any Nexrad cell at any time during the storm? Where does it occur? What is total average rainfall over the San Marcos basin from 28 June to 28 July 2002? What is the total average rainfall over the basin from 30 June through July 6?*

##### Summary of items to be turned in:

*(1) Make a screen capture of the related catchments and flowlines to the USGS gage near the Blanco River at Wimberley. Find the number and the total area of the catchments associated with gaging station. What percent of the total San Marcos basin does this constitute? Compare it with the area given in the USGS gage feature class.*

*(2) What is the total flow length from top to bottom of the San Marcos Basin (km). What is the average length of the 93 NHDFlowlines on this flow path (km).*

*(3) Make a screen capture of the BFI\_Ave points displayed on the basin streams and basin outline as background. Make a table of the 7 stream gages that shows the drainage area and mean annual base flow for each gage. Comment on the values in this table. Are they consistent?*

*(4) Make a layout combining a map of the rainfall distribution for June 30 with a graph of the distribution of rainfall through time averaged over the basin. What is the maximum rainfall daily amount in any Nexrad cell at any time during the storm? Where does it occur? What is total average rainfall over the San Marcos basin from 28 June to 28 July 2002? What is the total average rainfall over the basin from 30 June through July 6?*