**Exercise 2 Solution**

**GIS in Water Resources**

**Fall 2011**

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1. A screen capture of the NHDFlowlines and WBD watersheds is shown below. In the ‘wbdhu12\_a\_tx’ layer properties, under Source tab we can read the extent of the map.





1. The HUC12 Subwatersheds in the San Marcos Basin are shown below.



If we open the Attribute Table of the Watershed feature class, we’ll find there are **32 HUC 12 Subwatersheds** in it.



The Statistics summary of the ACRES attribute of this feature class is shown above, and the **average area** is given by the Mean statistic as **27180 acres**, or 27180 \* 0.0040469 km2 = 109.99 or **110 km2**. The **total area** of the San Marcos Basin is given by the Sum statistic, which is 869787 acres, or **3519.9 km2.** A similar Statistics computation on the Flowline feature class shows that the Sum or **Total Length** of flowlines is **1888.4 km** . Hence the **Drainage Density** = 1888.4/3519.9 = **0.536 km-1**. This means that there is about half a kilometer of streams to each square kilometer of watershed in these 1:100,000 scale stream data. There is a greater length of streams in more detailed 1:24,000 stream data, which we are not using for this exercise.



1. A screen capture showing the San Marcos Basin and streams sized according to mean annual flow, with labels for the Blanco River, the San Marcos River and Plum Creek, is shown below.



1. A layout showing the base map and chart for the San Marcos River flows is shown below



1. The outcrop area of the Edwards Aquifer crosses the Blanco River between the gages at **Wimberley** and **Kyle**. The mean annual flows and drainage areas for these gages are shown below

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gage | Mean Annual Flow (cfs) | Drainage Area (Sq. Miles) | Mean Annual Flow (cfs) for period of record to 2009 |
| Blanco River at Wimberley | 142 | 355 | 143.3 |
| Blanco River at Kyle | 165 | 412 | 164.0 |

I looked up some statistics of these two gages on the USGS water web site “Streamflow Statistics Retrieval Site” <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?m=sitempnn&r=us&w=real%2Cmap> In doing so, I found the drainage area in square miles for each gage site, and also an updated mean annual flow to 2009, whose figures differ little from the ones given in the exercise that I got from a USGS streamflow data book many years ago. Now, with these data, we can say that the flow per unit drainage area for the Blanco River at Wimberley is 143.3/355 = 0.403 cfs/sq mile. On this basis, we should expect that the mean annual flow at Kyle would be approximately equal to 412 \* 0.403 = 163 cfs. The actual mean annual flow at Kyle is 164 cfs! So, **we really can’t see any impact of the Edwards Aquifer on the flows between these two gages.**