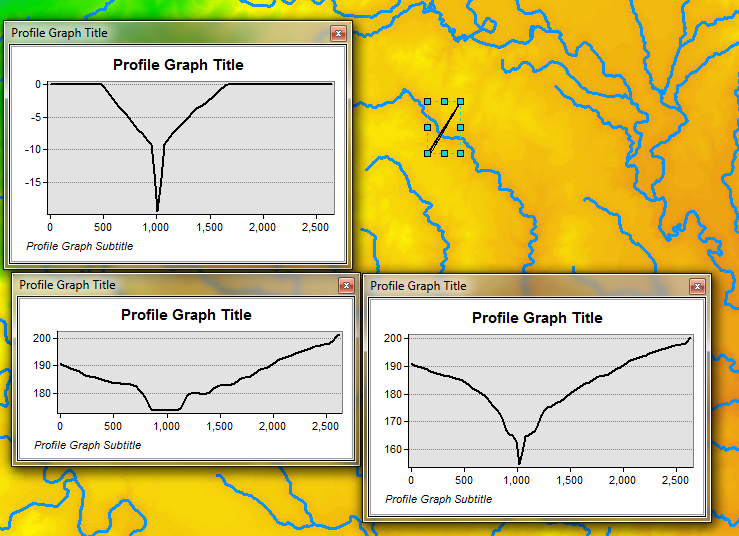
**Exercise 4 Solution**

**GIS in Water Resources**

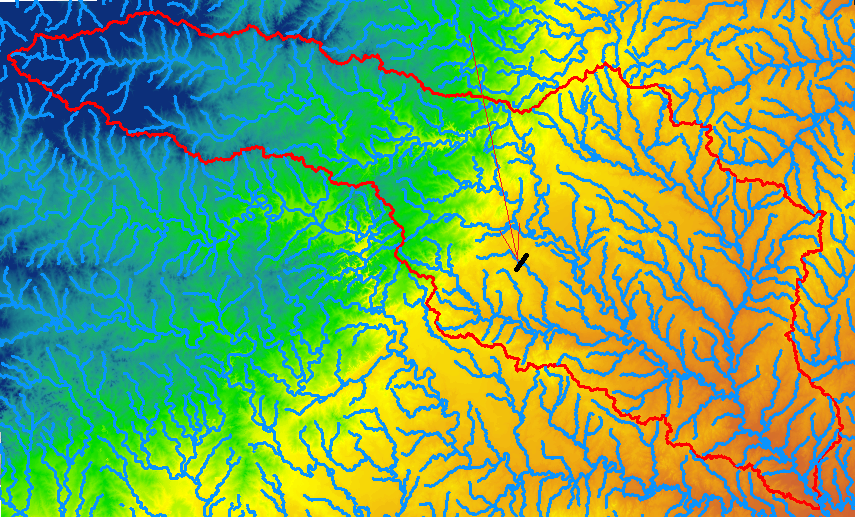
**Fall 2010**

Prepared by David Tarboton and David Maidment

1. *Screen captures that illustrate the effect of AGREE DEM Reconditioning. Show the location where you made a cross section as well as the DEM cross sections with and without reconditioning.*

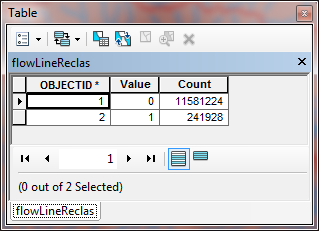
**

Bottom left graph is original DEM. Bottom right graph is with reconditioning. Top left is Smrecon-Smdem showing the adjustment that was done. Location is shown below.



1. *Number of stream grid cells in FlowLineReclas and estimates of channel length and drainage density.*

Opening the attribute table of FlowLineReclas gives the number of stream grid cells as 241928.



This is over a total number of grid cells of 11581224+241928 = 11823152. (This could also have been obtained from number of rows and columns 4334\*2728).

Assuming a length of each grid cell of 36 m (per the instructions), L = 241928 \* 36 = 8.709 x 106 m.

Cell size is 30 m x 30 m = 900 m2.   
Area = 11823152 \* 900 = 10.64 x 109 m2

Drainage density = L/Area = 8.709 x 106 /10.64 x 109 = 0.000818 m-1 = **0.818 km-1**.

Note. This is actually not a very good estimate. The length estimate of 36 m associated with each grid cell was suggested presuming that the FlowLineRaster had been thinned. But as the exercise was finalized this was not thinned, so even assuming a length of 30 m overestimates the channel length due to the stair step character of channels represented by the raster.

1. *Volumes of earth removed estimated from (a) layer properties of diff and (b) from estimates of channel length and cross section area. Comment on the differences.*

The cross section area of the swath removed during reconditioning is

1/2\*1000 \* 10 + 30 \* 10 = 5300 m2.

Therefore **volume removed** is:

5300 \* 8.709 x 106 = **46.16 x 109 m3**.

The raster calculation smdem - smrecon was performed and the average of the resultant grid is 2.778 m. This applies to a 900 m2 area, representing a removal volume of:

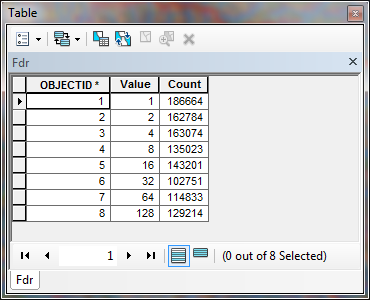
2.778 \* 900 \* 11823152 = **29.56 x 109 m3**.

This is less than the estimate above due to the overestimate of length reflected in the above. There is also a small discrepancy due to the area of DEM with elevation values not filling the full grid which was used in the above calculations.

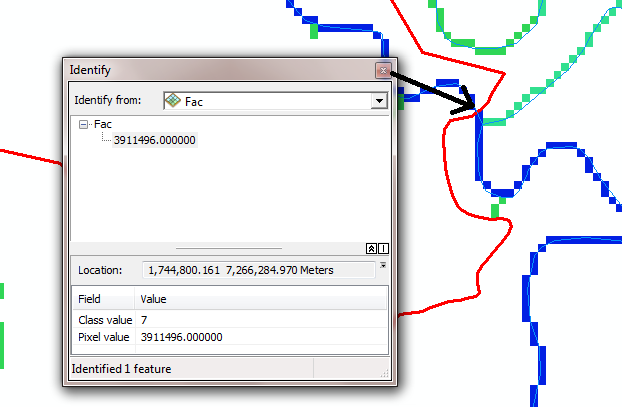
[Any set of numbers close to these that have used reasonable approximations and justified methodology is acceptable]

1. *Make a screen capture of the attribute table of fdr and give an interpretation for the values in the Value field using a sketch.*

Following is the attribute table of FDR. The values should be interpreted according to the figure at the right and the count gives the number of grid cells with each flow direction value.



1. *Report the drainage area of the San Marcos basin in both number of 30 m grid cells and km2 as estimated by flow accumulation.*

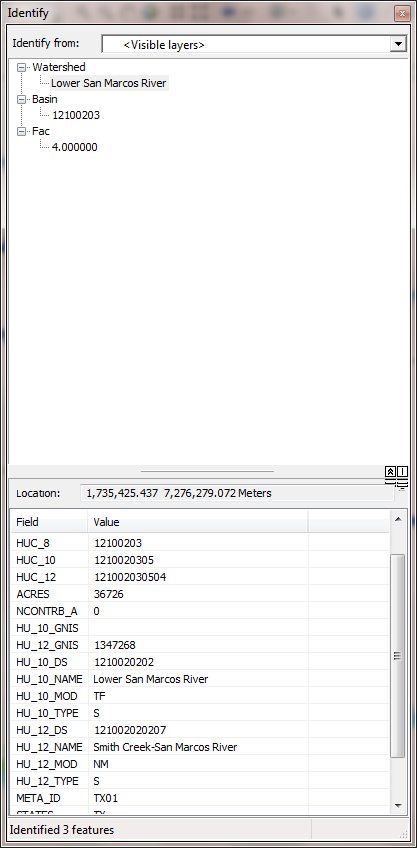


The area of the San Marcos basin is 3911496 grid cells = 3911496 \* 900 = 3. 520 x 109 m2 = **3520 km2**

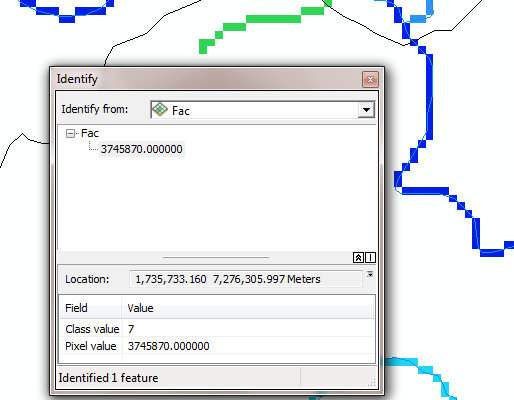
1. *Report the name of the most downstream HUC 12 subwatershed in the San Marcos Basin. Report the area of the most downstream HUC 12 subwatershed determined from flow accumulation, from the ACRES attribute and from Shape\_Area. Convert these area values to consistent units. Comment on any differences.*

Name of most downstream HUC 12 subwatershed: **Smith Creek-San Marcos River**

Note that this is within the Lower San Marcos HUC 10, but the HUC 12 name is Smith Creek-San Marcos. See below.



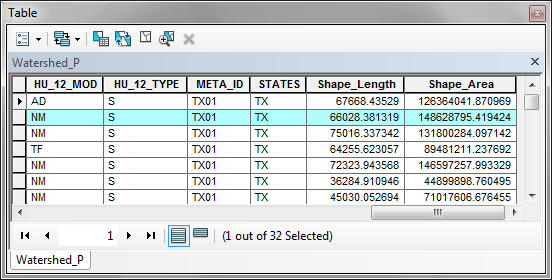
Area draining in to most downstream HUC is: 3745870 grid cells = 3745870 \* 900 = 3.371 x 109 m2.



Taking the difference with the area leaving this HUC 12 subwatershed, I get

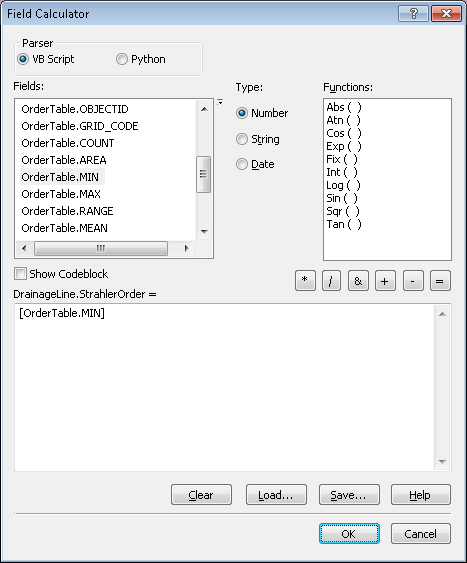
(3.520 - 3.371) x 109 m2= 0.149 x 109 m2 = 0.149 x 109 /4047 = **36820 acres**. This compares well with the 36726 acres reported in the ACRES attribute.

Following the procedure to project the Watershed feature class I get area for this subwatershed of 0.148 x 109 m2, also consistent.



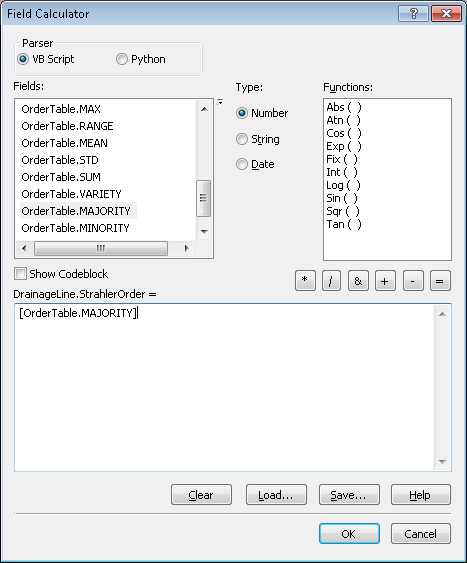
1. *Describe (with simple illustrations) the relationship between StrLnk, DrainageLine, Catchments and CatchPoly attribute and grid values. What is the unique identifier in each that allows them to be relationally associated?*
2. *A table giving the number of stream links, total stream length and total catchment area draining directly to streams of each order.*

The StreamOrder table was joined to the DrainageLine table following the instructions on page 33 of the exercise. Then I initially used the MIN field to evaluate the StrahleOrder attribute in the following Field Calculator dialog.

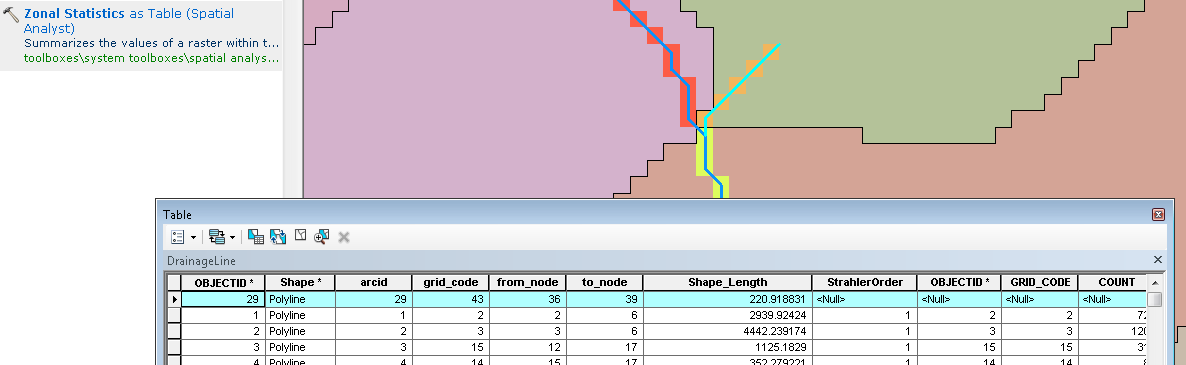


However when I symbolized DrainageLine using the resulting StreamOrder I noticed a problem for one link.

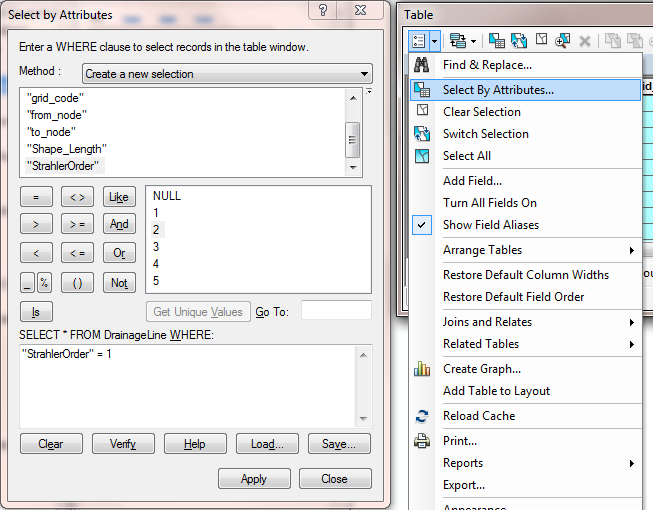
I therefore used the calculation StrahlerOrder = OrderTable.Majority to resolve this.



I also noticed that the OrderTable only had 433 records, but that the DrainageLine table had 434 records. Upon investigating it appears that the Zonal Statistics as Table function somehow omitted one of the stream links. [I believe that this is a bug in the software]. This results in one of the links not having StrahlerOrder evaluated. By selecting this link you can see where it is:

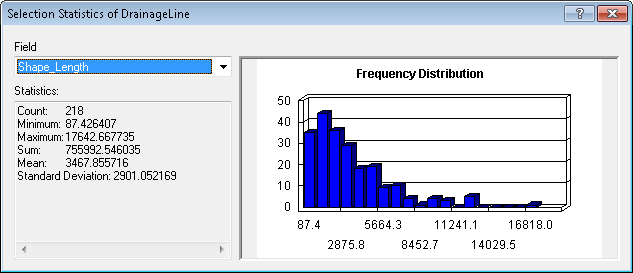


I was unable to get the Zonal Statistics as Table function to fill in results for this link. I therefore just edited the StrahlerOrder value for this link to be 1. [**Note that it is unfortunately not uncommon to encounter problems and bugs like this in complicated software. As a user it is important to be vigilant to the possible occurrence of this and always be cross-checking results. Learning how to do this, discover a problem and work around it is an important skill to learn**]I then used a series of queries like the following to select DrainageLines of each order and evaluate their statistics.

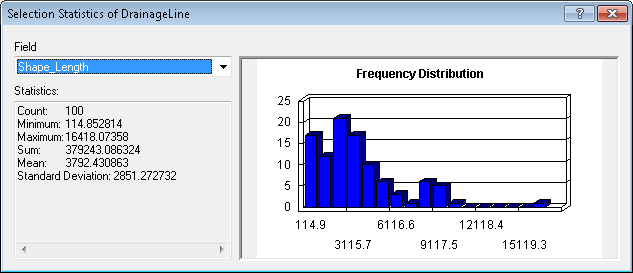


The following screen grabs give statistics on stream length from the DrainageLine table for selections based on orders 1 to 5. The table of results excerpted from these is then given below.

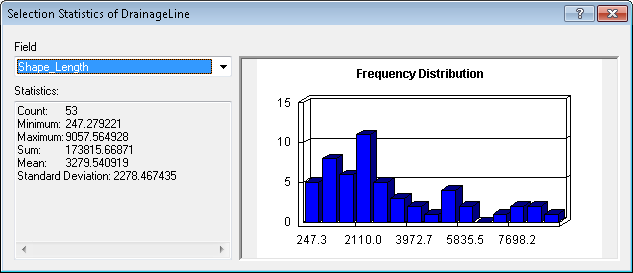
Order 1



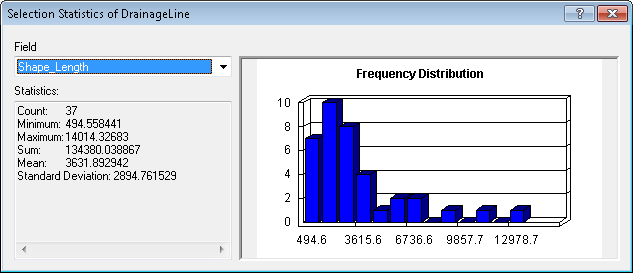
Order 2



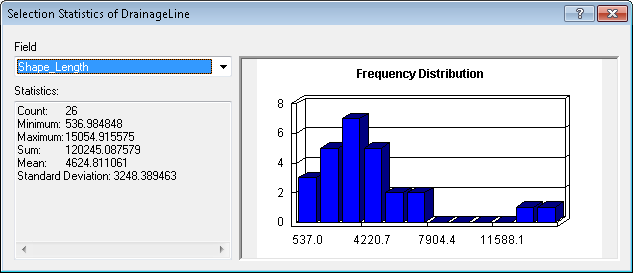
Order 3



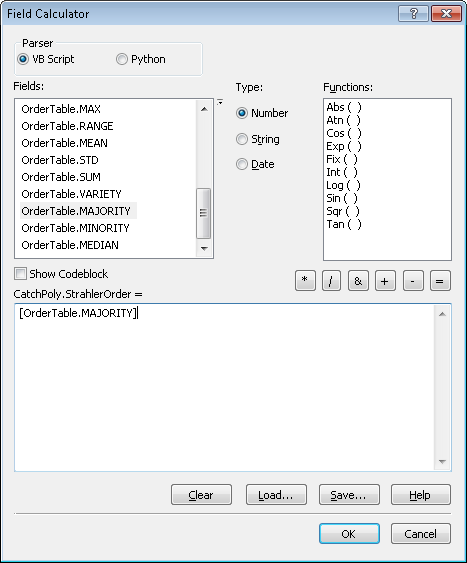
Order 4



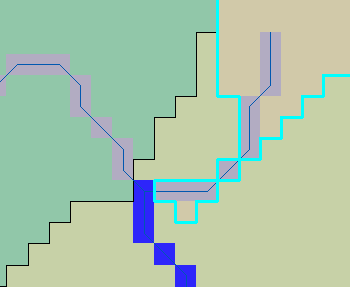
Order 5



I then created a StrahlerOrder field in CatchPoly and joined the OrderTable to the CatchPoly attribute table using gridcode as the join field. I again used the Field Calculator to evaluate CatchPoly.StrahlerOrder = OrderTable.Majority and edited the single polygon StrahlerOrder value for which there was no OrderTable entry to 1.



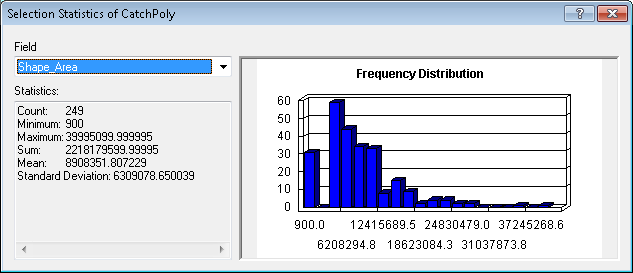
Note that there are more polygons in CatchPoly than links in DrainageLine because sometimes a polygon has multiple parts. This occurs where corners touch (see below).



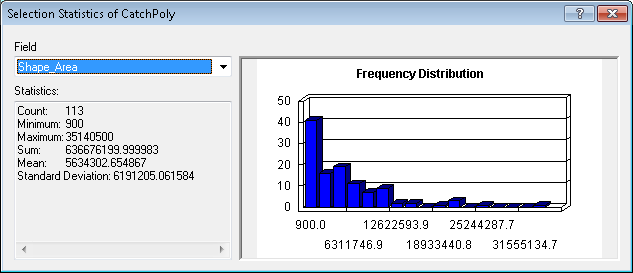
Doing the calculation this way however still gives the correct result because we are only interested in the total area. If we were interested in other statistics we would need to use the Dissolve function to dissolve these multiple features in to one based on their grid codes.

The following screen grabs give statistics on Catchment area from the CatchPoly table for selections based on orders 1 to 5. The table of results excerpted from these is then given below.

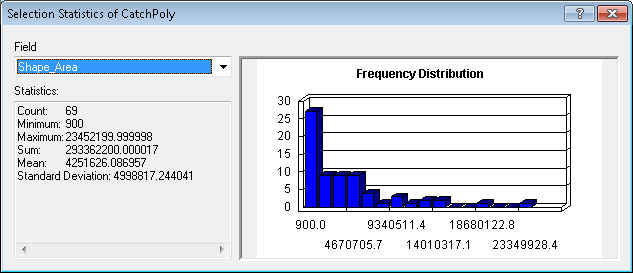
Order 1



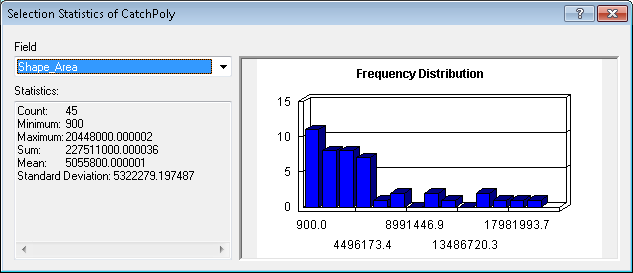
Order 2



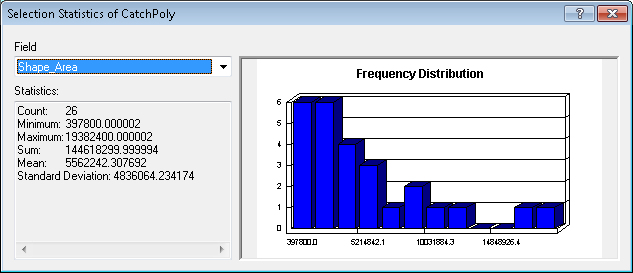
Order 3



Order 4

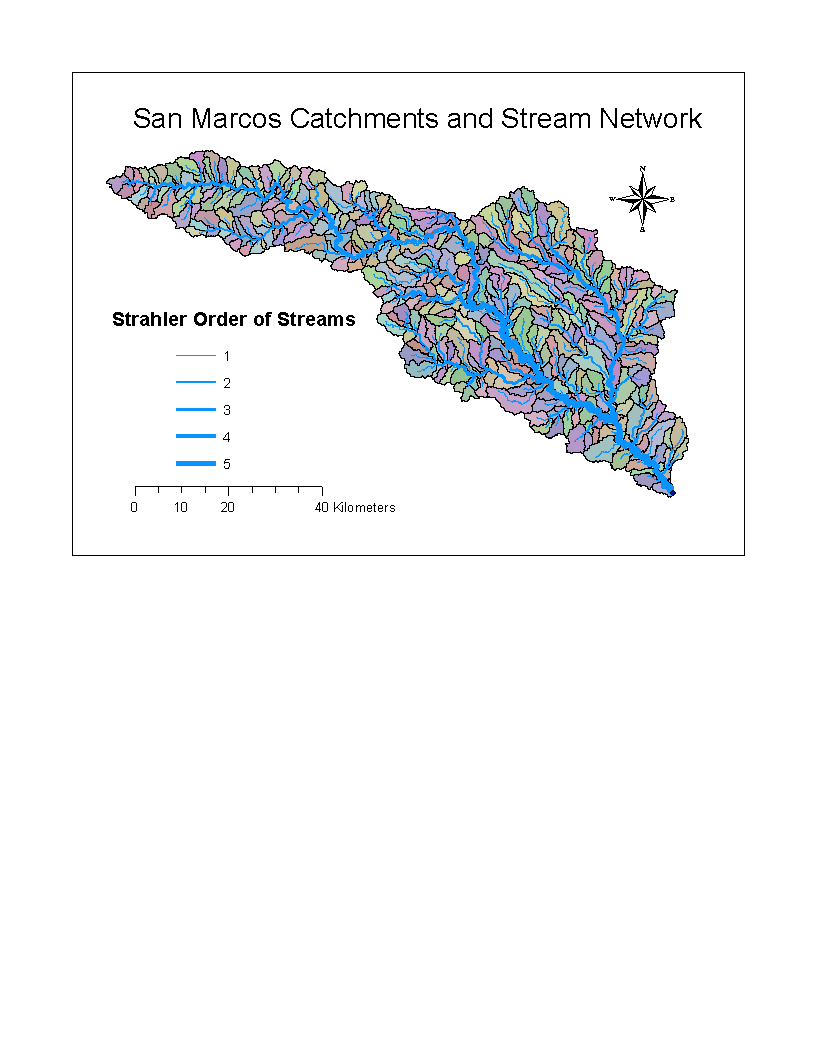


Order 5



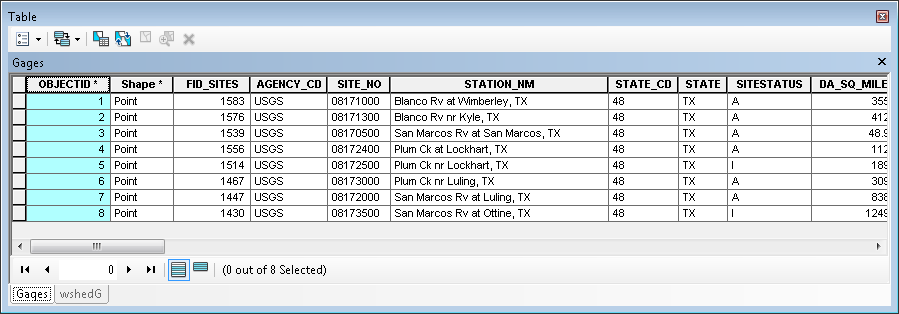
|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Order | Number of links | Total Length (km) | Total Area (km2) |
| 1 | 218 | 756 | 2218 |
| 2 | 100 | 379 | 637 |
| 3 | 53 | 174 | 293 |
| 4 | 37 | 134 | 228 |
| 5 | 26 | 120 | 145 |

1. *A layout showing the stream network and catchments attractively symbolized with scale, title and legend. The symbology should depict the stream order for each stream.*

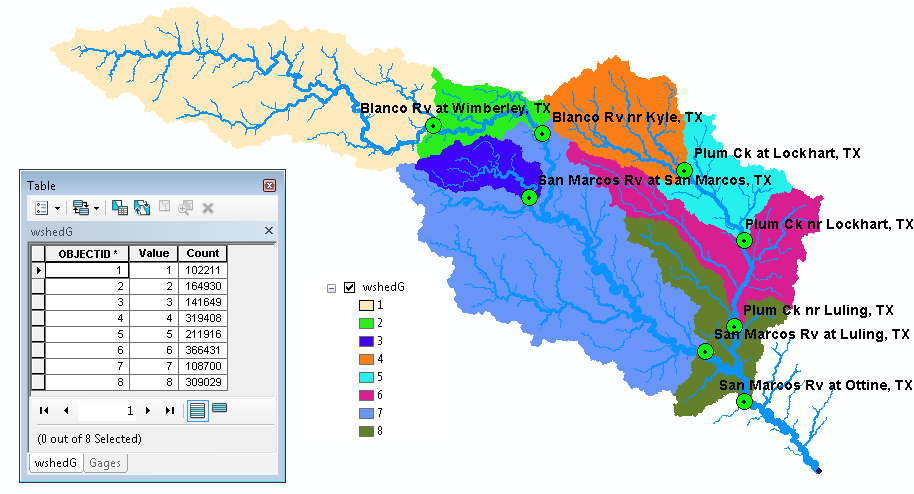


1. *Indicate the field in the gages table that is associated with values in the wshedG. Give the area in number of grid cells and km2 of each gauge subwatershed. Add these as appropriate to give the total area draining to each gauge and compare to the DA\_SQ\_MILE values from the USGS for these gauges.*

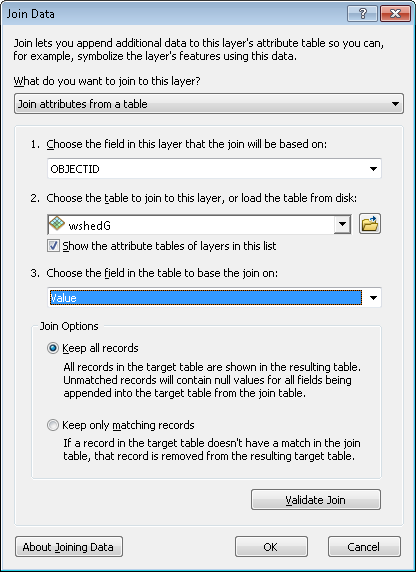
The attribute **OBJECT\_ID** defines the subwatershed zones for each gage. This is because I selected OBJECTID as the pour point field when running Snap Pour Point (following the instructions on page 37)



The number of cells associated with each subwatershed is shown in the Attribute table for the WshedG grid as given below.



To associate these cell counts with the appropriate gage, I used the following join on the gages table.



Note that I used the OBJECTID field in the Gages table and joined this on to the Value field on the wshedG value attribute table because OBJECTID's from Gages were written as grid values in wshedG.

I then exported the joined table to a .txt file (its comma delimited), opened it in Excel and deleted unwanted columns. The cell size on the grids being used for this solution is 30m, so the area of each subwatershed in square miles = number of cells \* (900/(1609.344^2)). There are 1609.344 m in a mile. The areas of the watersheds for the gages are found by summing the areas of the subwatersheds for all upstream area draining to that gage. To help with figuring out which areas flow to which gages, the colors in the map are shown in the spreadsheet below. The resulting differences between the DEM-delineated areas and those in the gage feature class DA\_SQ\_Mile field are small, as can be seen from the table below. (This is an embedded object so if reading online you can click to see formula's)

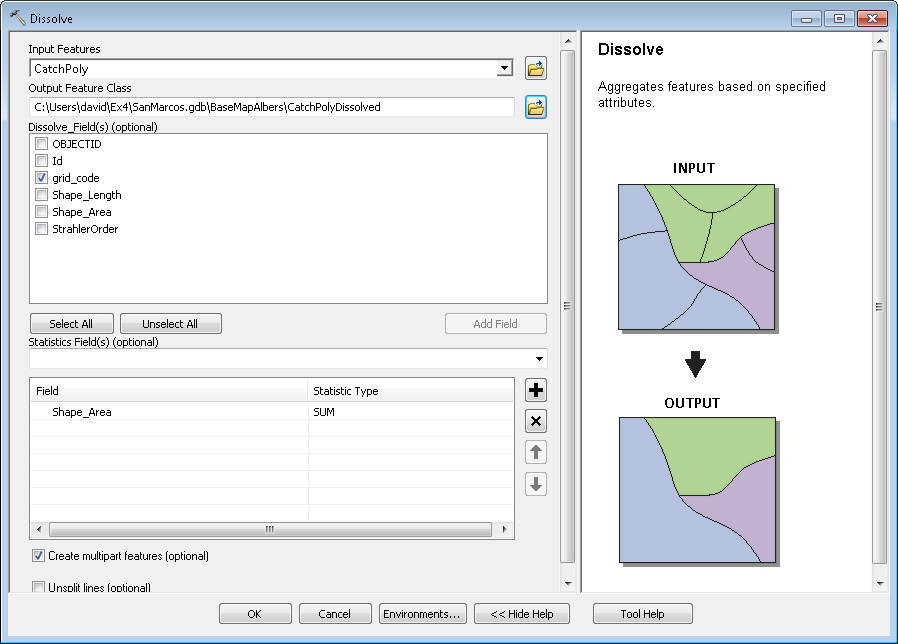
(This is an embedded object so if reading online you can click to see formula's)

1. *A table giving for each USGS gauge the number of upstream stream links, the total length of upstream stream links, the total upstream area, drainage density (total length/total area), number of downstream links along path to outlet, distance to outlet along the streams.*

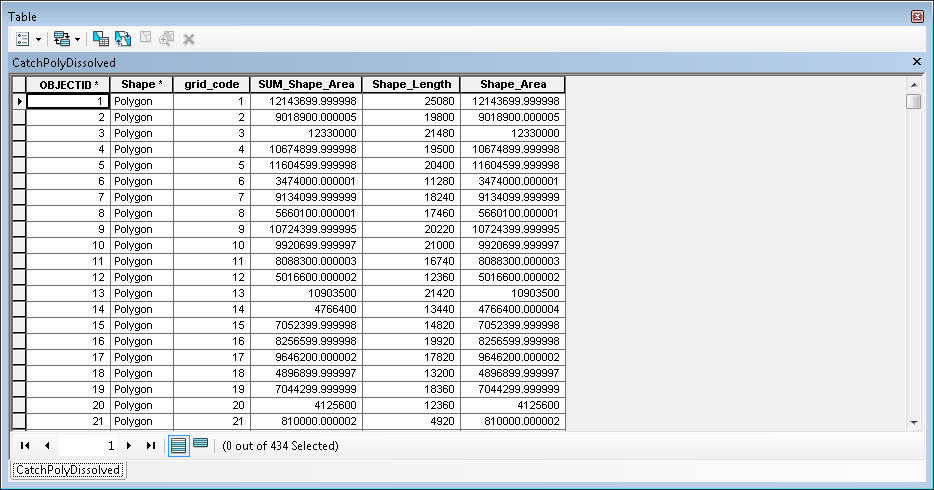
To define a geometric network in ArcGIS lines as well as nodes may be input. We will build a network from the DrainageLine feature class and a single node that is to be a sink at the outlet. To ensure that we have a point right on the outlet we use Feature Vertices to Points with the DANGLE option to create a feature class with a point at the end point (each dangling point) of the network then we select and export the one at the downstream outlet as OutletSink.

The network was then built using the instructions on pages 38-43. There is one tricky part and that is the editing of the OutletSink attribute table to have an AncillaryRole value of 2, which corresponds to Sink. This is most easily done by opening the Attribute table of OutletSink and editing the value to a numeric value of 2. This is not intuitive. You just have to know that 2 corresponds to sink. The operations using the Attributes editor that opens on the right I could not make work reliably and sometimes it is hard to even get them to appear. Once you have the table AncillaryRole attribute value set to 2 you can (while still editing, because setting direction is regarded as an editing operation) click on the Set Flow direction button and this should process the network to make all edges flow towards the OutletSink point which is the designated outlet. With arrows pointed down each link the network is ready for analysis and you can stop editing.

To be able to determine catchment area as well as channel length for upstream networks I wanted to include catchment area as an attribute of DrainageLine. This is a bit tricky because of the Many to One relationship between catchment polygon features and drainage line features illustrated on page 11 above. I therefore used the Dissolve tool with the following inputs. Note that I selected grid\_code as the Dissolve\_Field. This results in combining all separate shapes that have the same grid\_code. I also chose to aggregate Shape\_Area using the SUM to get the sum of shape area's. This turned out to be redundant as the system actually computed a new Shape\_Area that is equivalent.

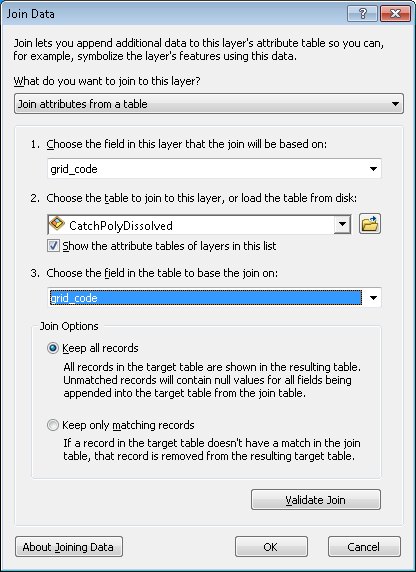


The result is:



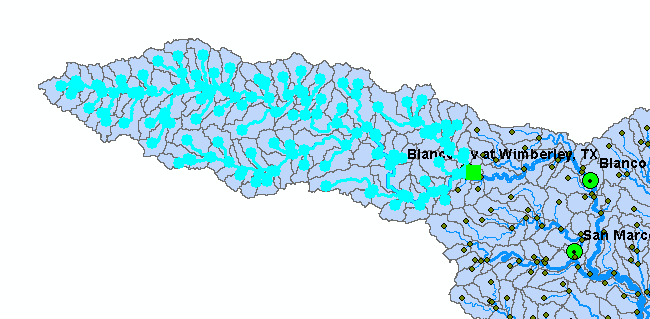
Note that there are now 434 shapes corresponding to the number of links.

I then used the following join on the DrainageLine attribute table to associate these areas with DrainageLine features.



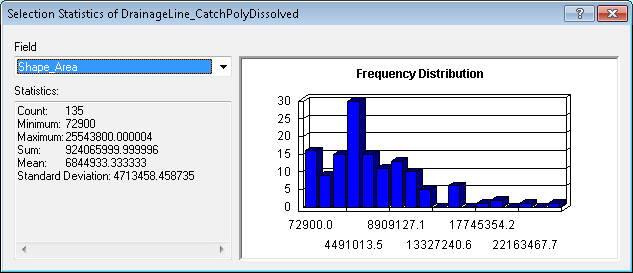
Note that grid\_code was used as the join field.

I then successively placed an edge flag on the edge associated with each USGS stream gauge and performed a trace upstream to select the upstream part of the network.

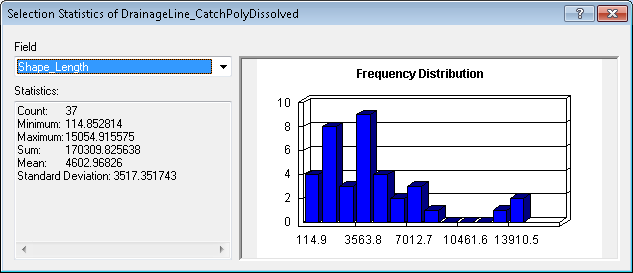


I then used statistics of selected Shape\_Length and Shape\_Area to determine the number of links, total length and drainage area of the network draining to each gauge. These were recorded in the table below. I then performed a trace downstream and used statistics of selected Shape\_Length to determine the distance to the outlet along the streams. Following are screen grabs of the statistics results.

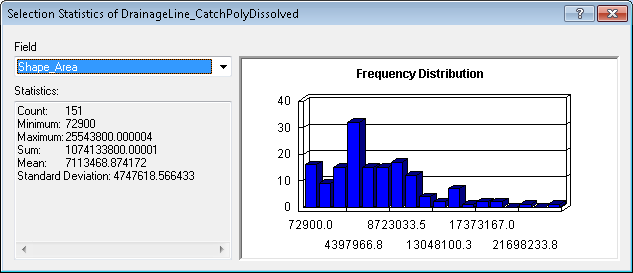
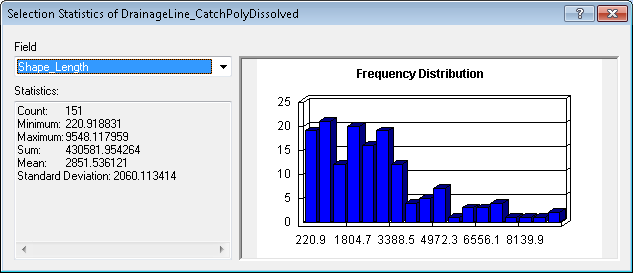
Blanco Rv at Wimberley, Tx (upstream)



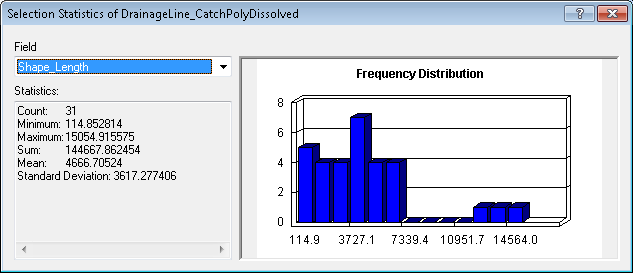
Blanco Rv at Wimberley, Tx (downstream)



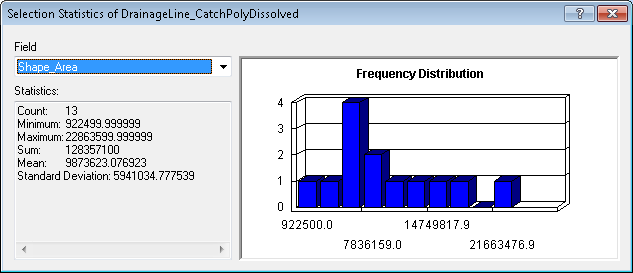
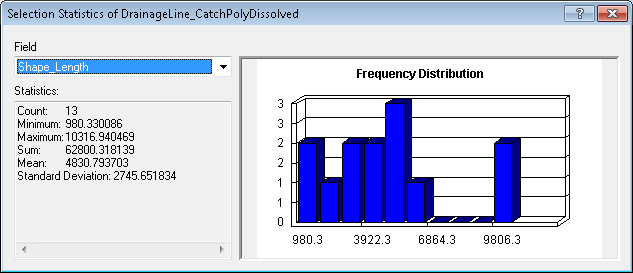
Blanco Rv nr Kyle, TX (upstream)



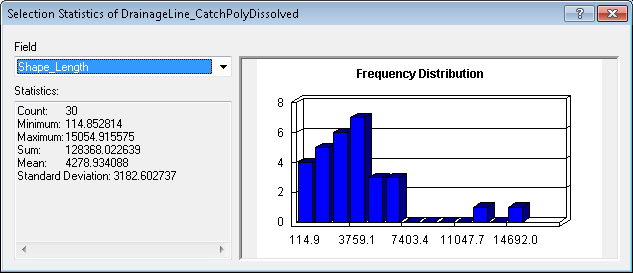
Blanco Rv nr Kyle, TX (downstream)



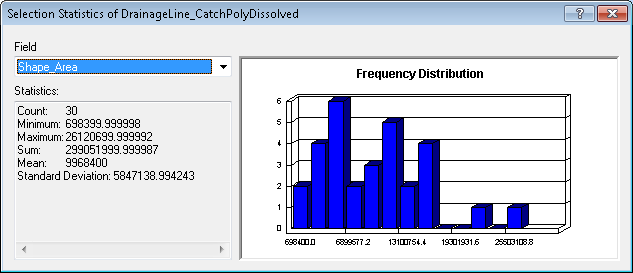
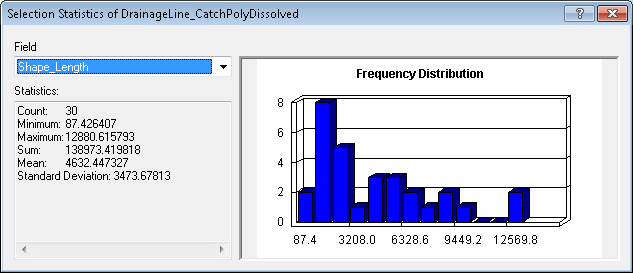
San Marcos Rv at San Marcos, TX (upstream)



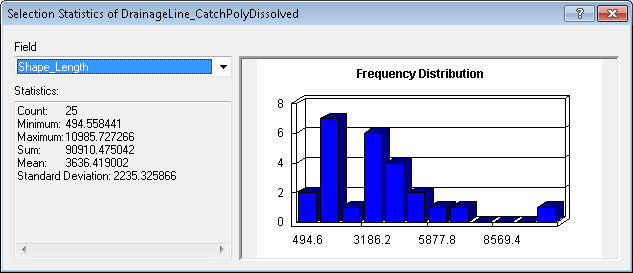
San Marcos Rv at San Marcos, TX (downstream)



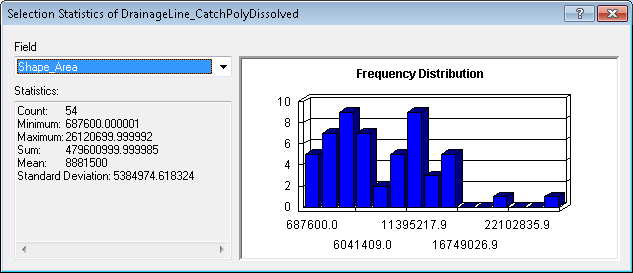
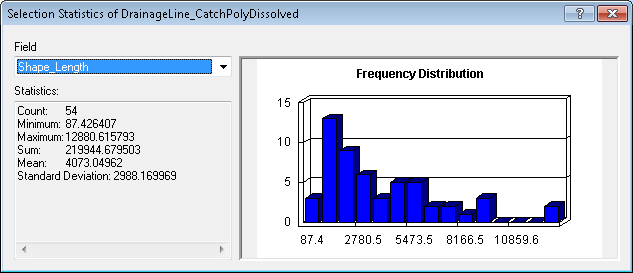
Plum Ck at Lockhart, TX (upstream)



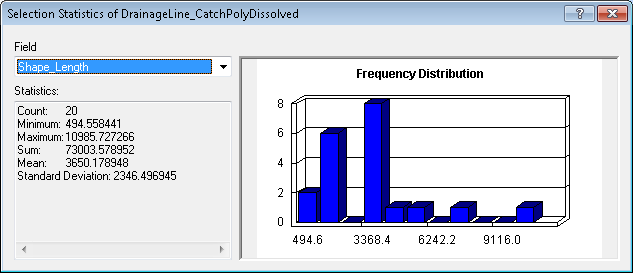
Plum Ck at Lockhart, TX (downstream)



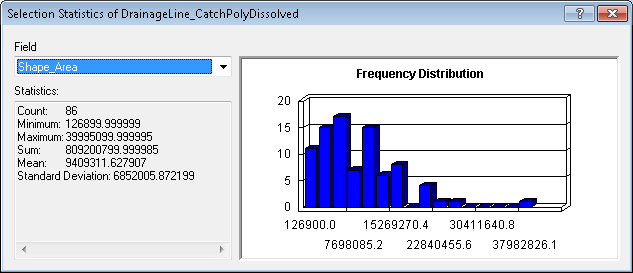
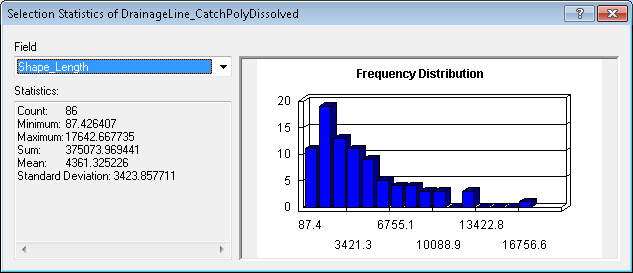
Plum Ck nr Lockhart, TX (upstream)



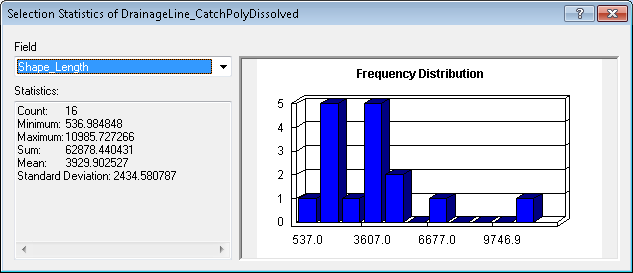
Plum Ck nr Lockhart, TX (downstream)



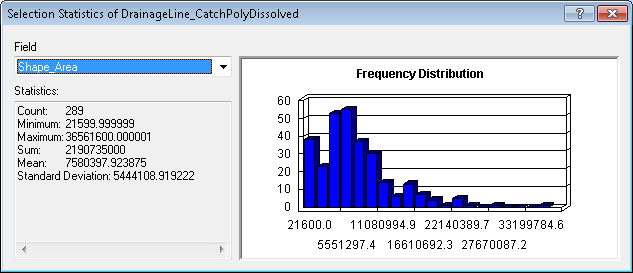
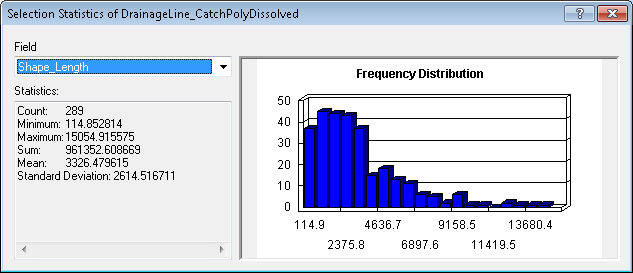
Plum Ck nr Luling, TX (upstream)



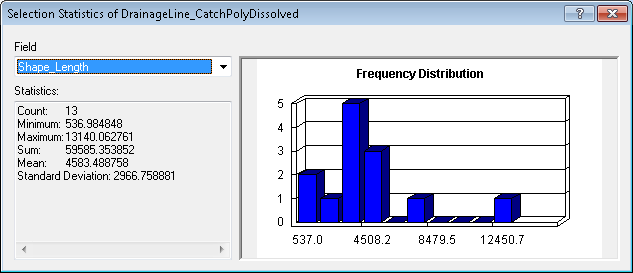
Plum Ck nr Luling, TX (downstream)



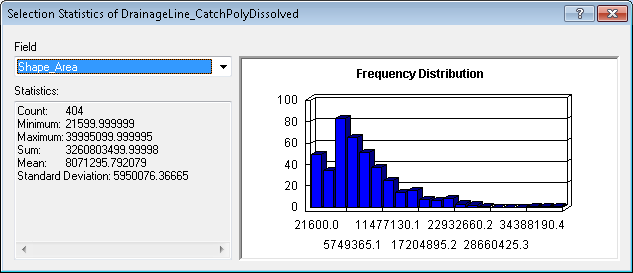
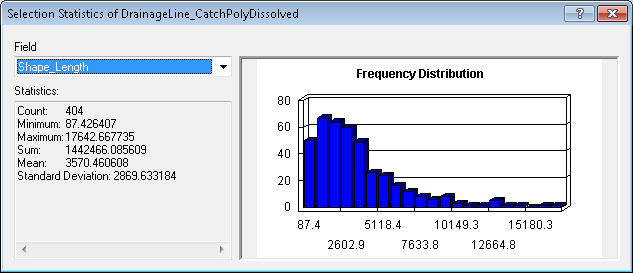
San Marcos Rv at Luling, TX (upstream)



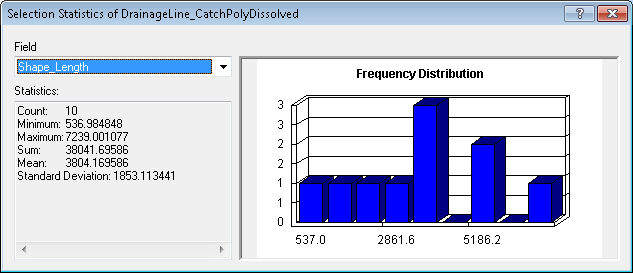
San Marcos Rv at Luling, TX (downstream)



San Marcos Rv at Ottine, TX (upstream)



San Marcos Rv at Ottine, TX (downstream)





(This is an embedded object so if reading online you can click to see formula's)

Note that length and area results are over-estimates relative to the USGS gauge because the network trace includes the entire link including the gauge.

1. *A layout illustrating the longest flow path in the San Marcos watershed and giving the length in km.*

Screen shot giving longest path length along downstream trace

