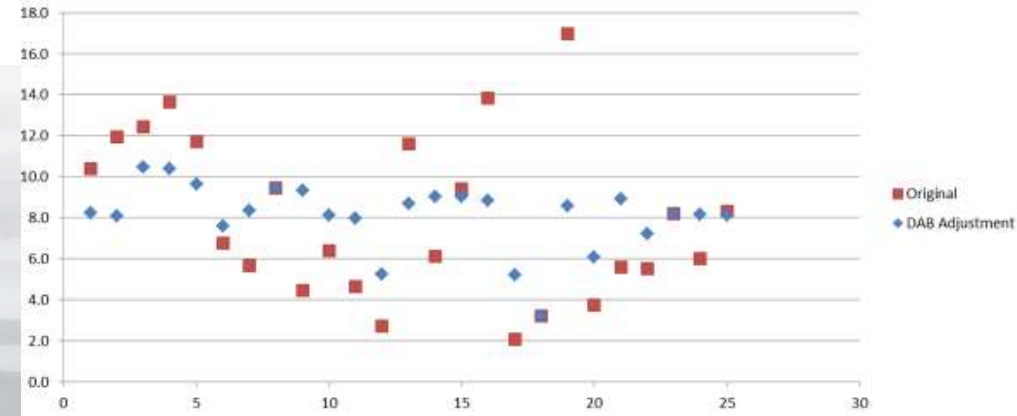


Watershed Response Factor

— Global implications for using a tool to address water security



Tuesday August 2nd

8:30am

Presented By : David Bidelspach

Greg Jennings, Mike Geenen, Ryan Baird,
Brad Fairley and George Kelly



Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.

— Luna Leopold —

Water Security - Concerns



- Urbanization
- Terrorism
- Runoff Rates
- Evaporation/Transpiration
- Waste of Agricultural Water
- Drought
- Industrialization
- Earthquakes
- Climate Change

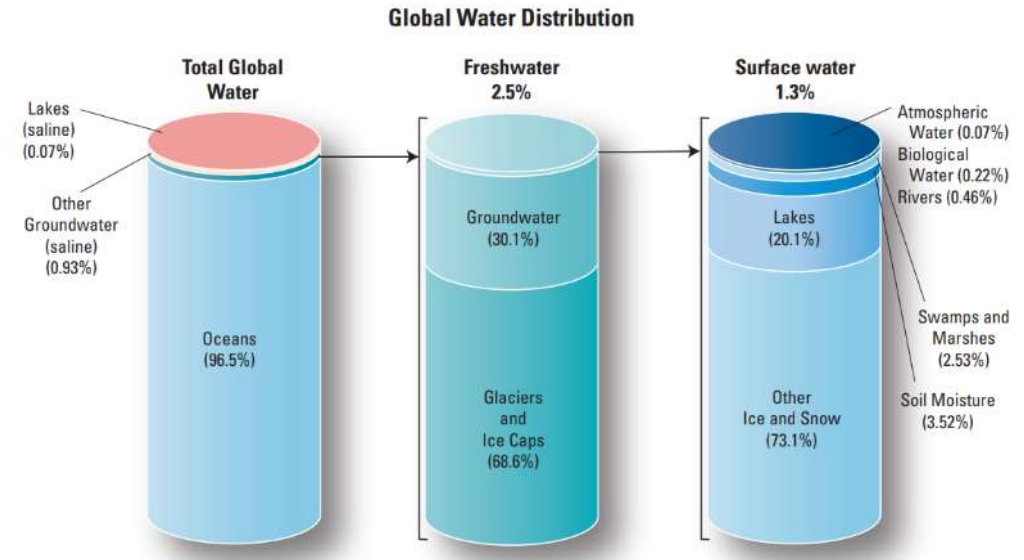
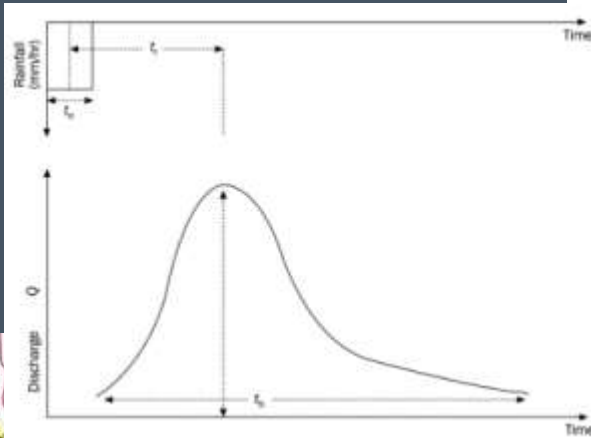


Figure 1. Data taken from United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, 2006.

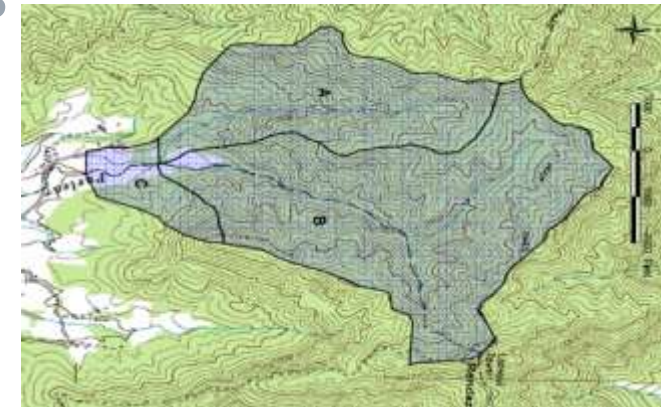
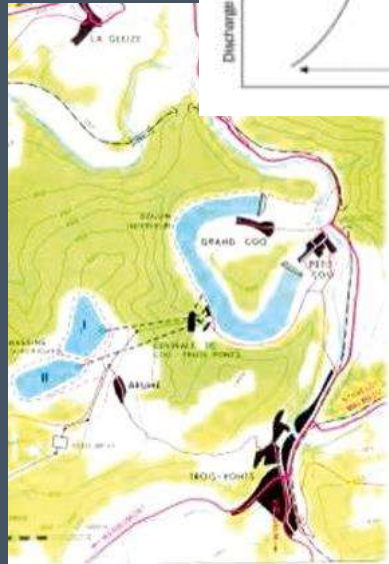
- World Bank is aware of the seriousness of water-security issues.
(Young 2006)
- Since ancient times, limiting access to water has been used as a weapon through the destruction of water resources and distribution facilities

Unit Hydrograph and Water Security

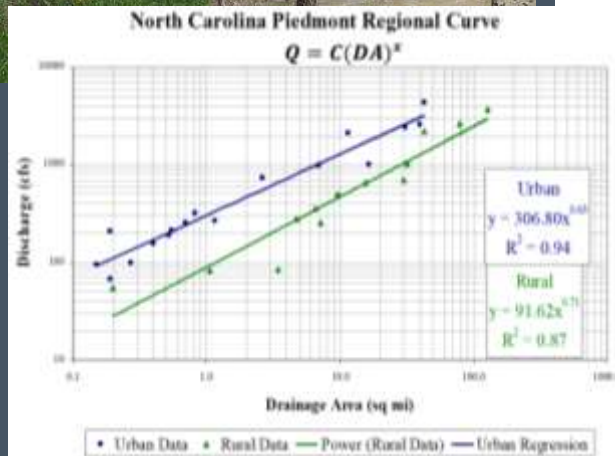
Concerns



- Catchments
- Diversions
- Cross-basin transfers
- Urbanization
- Stormwater BMPS
- Shape of Watersheds
- Characteristics of Watersheds
- Rainfall Intensity
- Rainfall Quantity
- Unknown concerns



Bankfull Regional Curves (Hydraulic Geometry Relationships)



- Serves as a “data supported” basis for estimating the bankfull discharge and bankfull channel dimension (cross-sectional area, width and depth) at selected un-gaged sites, with a known watershed or drainage area.

- Bankfull Discharge - Fills a stable channel up to the elevation of the “active” floodplain.

Purpose Bankfull Regional Curves



- Develop a tool to determine “bankfull” stage and discharge in un-gaged watersheds.

- Bankfull is the surrogate for the full range of flows

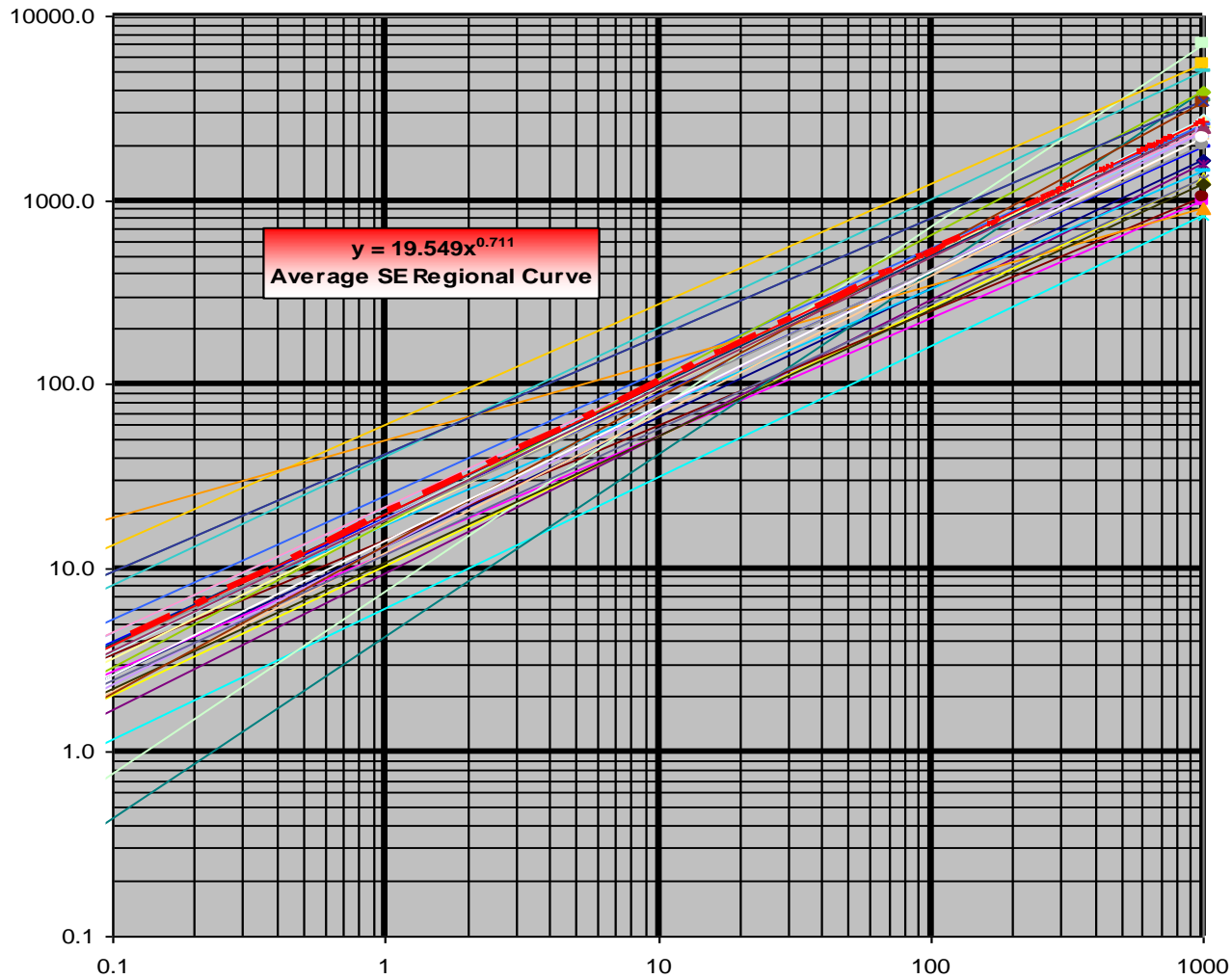
M. Gordon ‘Reds’ Wolman

- Aid in Natural Channel Design.

- Aid in River Stability Assessment

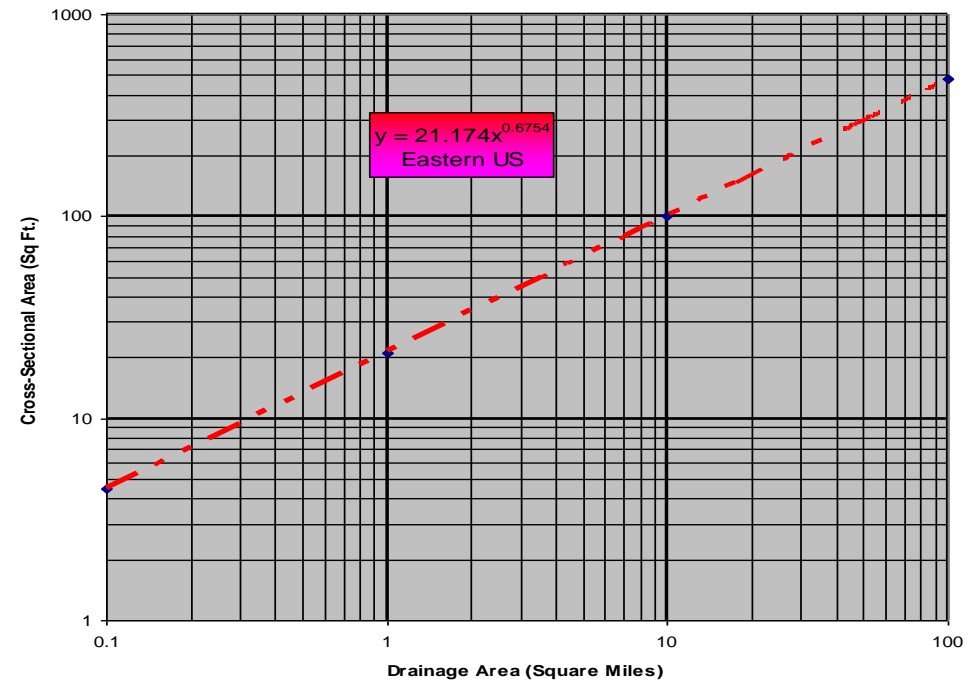
- Can only be used in the same hydro-physiographic province?

- How do we know if a Regional Curve is “Wrong”?



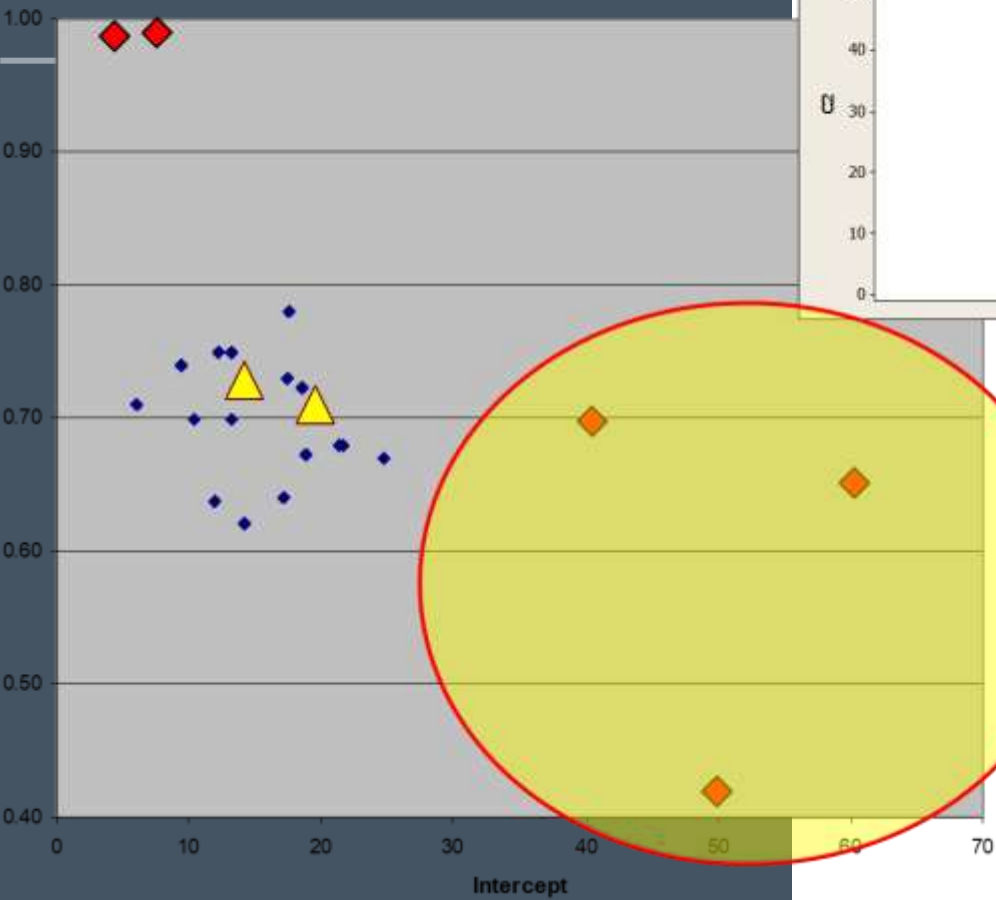
Eastern United States Regional Curve

Dunne and Leopold 1978

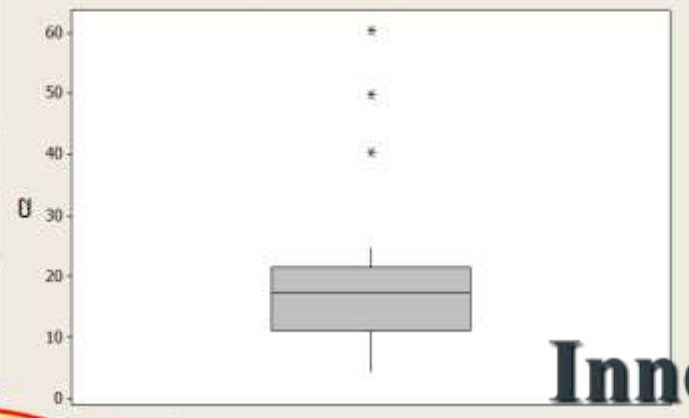


$$XSA = C(DA)^x$$

Regression Variable for Southeastern Regional Curve

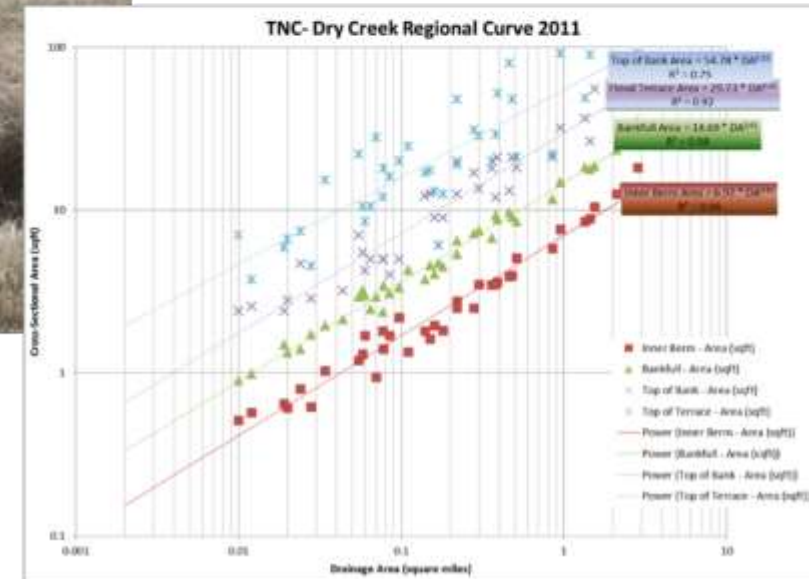


Boxplot of Intercept Values



“C” = Y Intercept

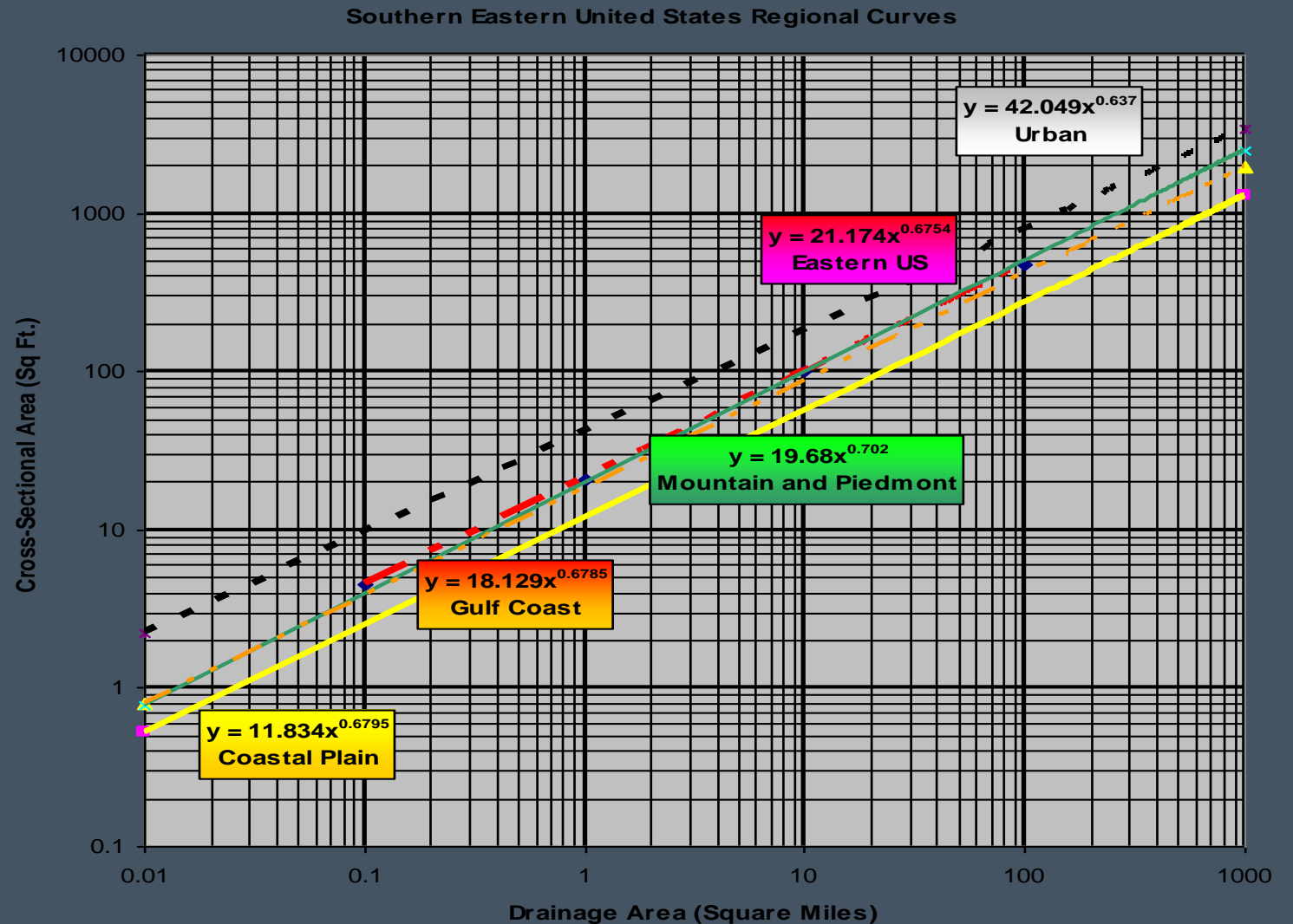
Inner Berm vs. Bankfull





Regional Curve -Regions and Urbanization

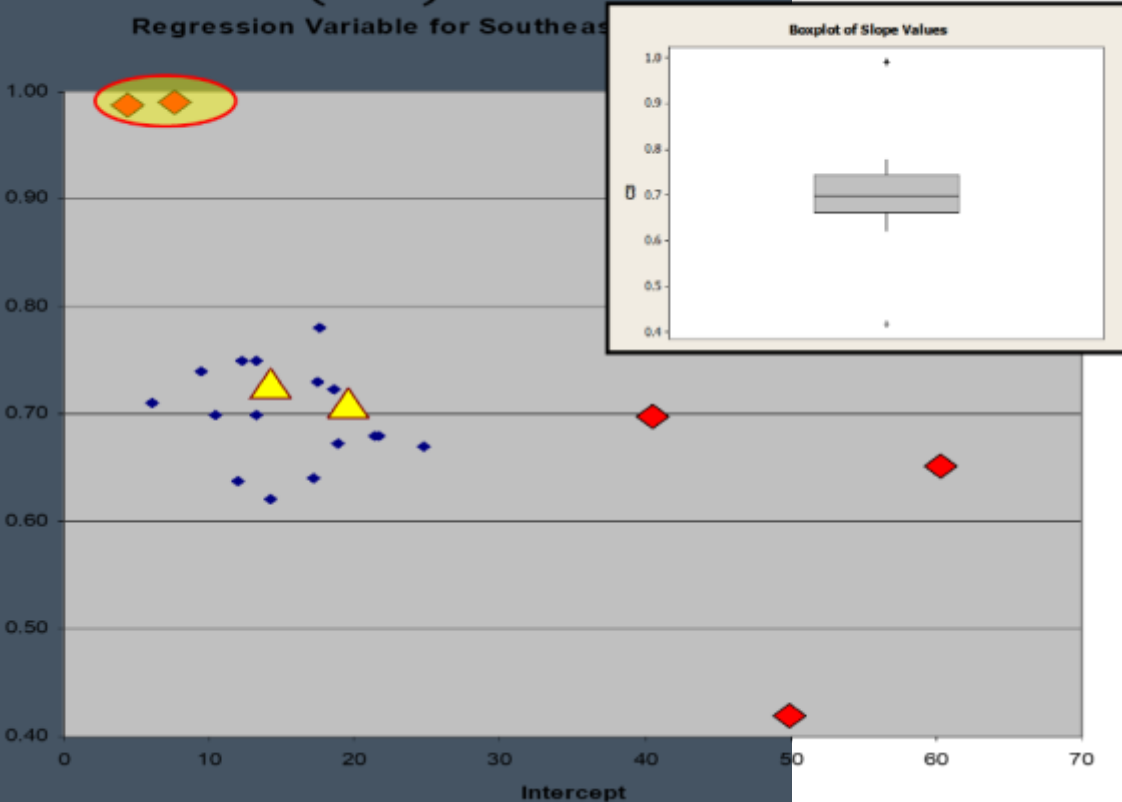
- Bankfull can have a high degree of uncertainty
- Inner-Berm and other Geomorphic Features should be separated on curves
- There are multiple geomorphic indicators not just bankfull
- It is ok to not “know bankfull”
 - Know where it is not “BKFH” or “BKFL”



“x” = Power Function Slope

$$XSA = C(DA)^x$$

Regression Variable for Southeast



Rural flood recurrence interval (years)	Hydrologic area		
	Blue Ridge-Piedmont	Coastal Plain	Sand Hills
	90 DA 0.71		
2	135 DA 0.702	64.7 DA 0.673	33.5 DA 0.712
5	242 DA 0.677	129 DA 0.633	55.5 DA 0.701
10	334 DA 0.662	188 DA 0.615	72.9 DA 0.697
25	476 DA 0.645	281 DA 0.593	98.1 DA 0.693
50	602 DA 0.635	367 DA 0.579	120 DA 0.691
100	745 DA 0.625	468 DA 0.566	143 DA 0.688
200	908 DA 0.616	586 DA 0.554	170 DA 0.686
500	1,160 DA 0.605	773 DA 0.539	210 DA 0.684

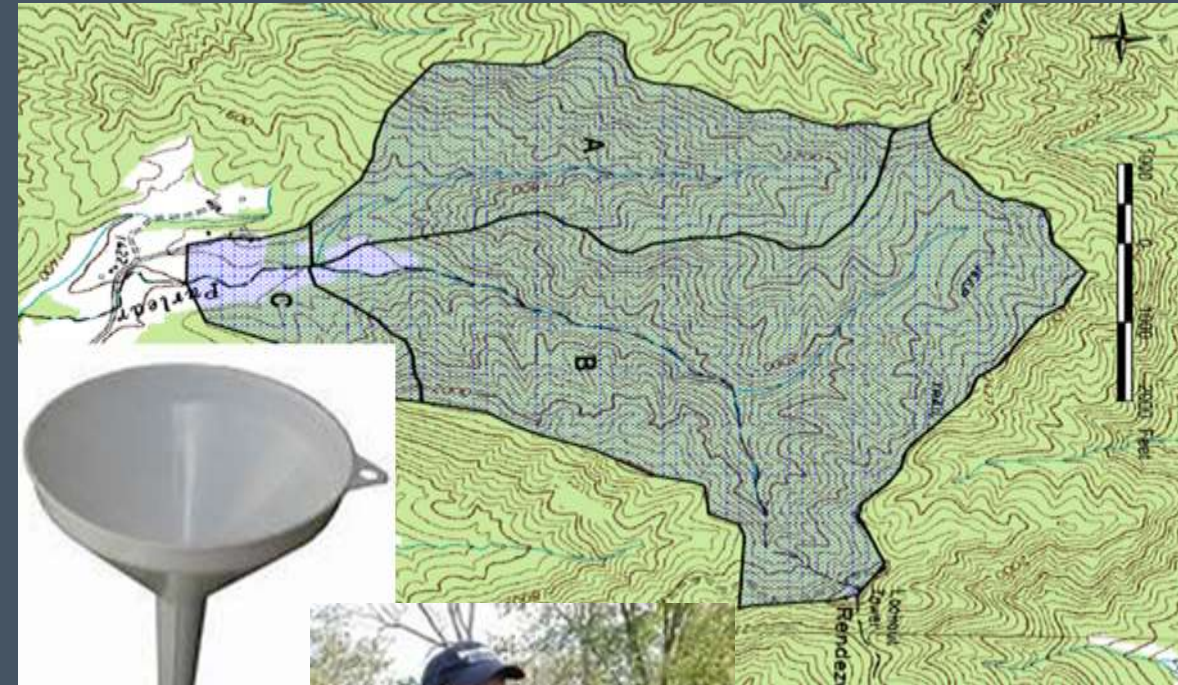




Regional Curve

- Constant Slopes $x = 0.68$

- Time of Concentration
- Rainfall and runoff amounts
- Lag-times, in-phase
- Watersheds can't have a linear Regression Slope
- Average Regression Slope ~ 0.68 Range 95% (0.61 – 0.76)
- Localized mini-regional curves can be used for design purposes
- Local data (upstream, downstream, nearby streams) are always essential to add confidence to predictive relationships developed elsewhere.
- It is ok to not “know bankfull”

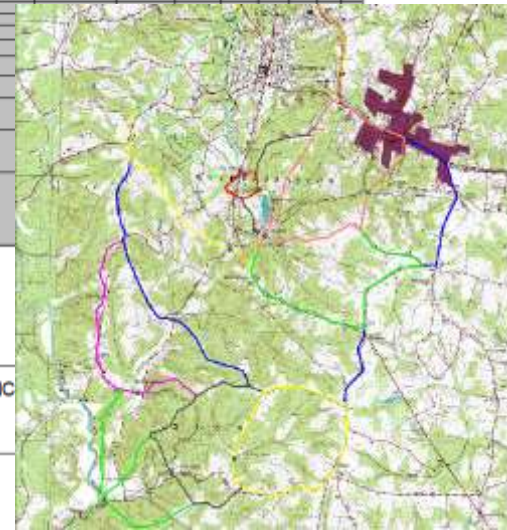
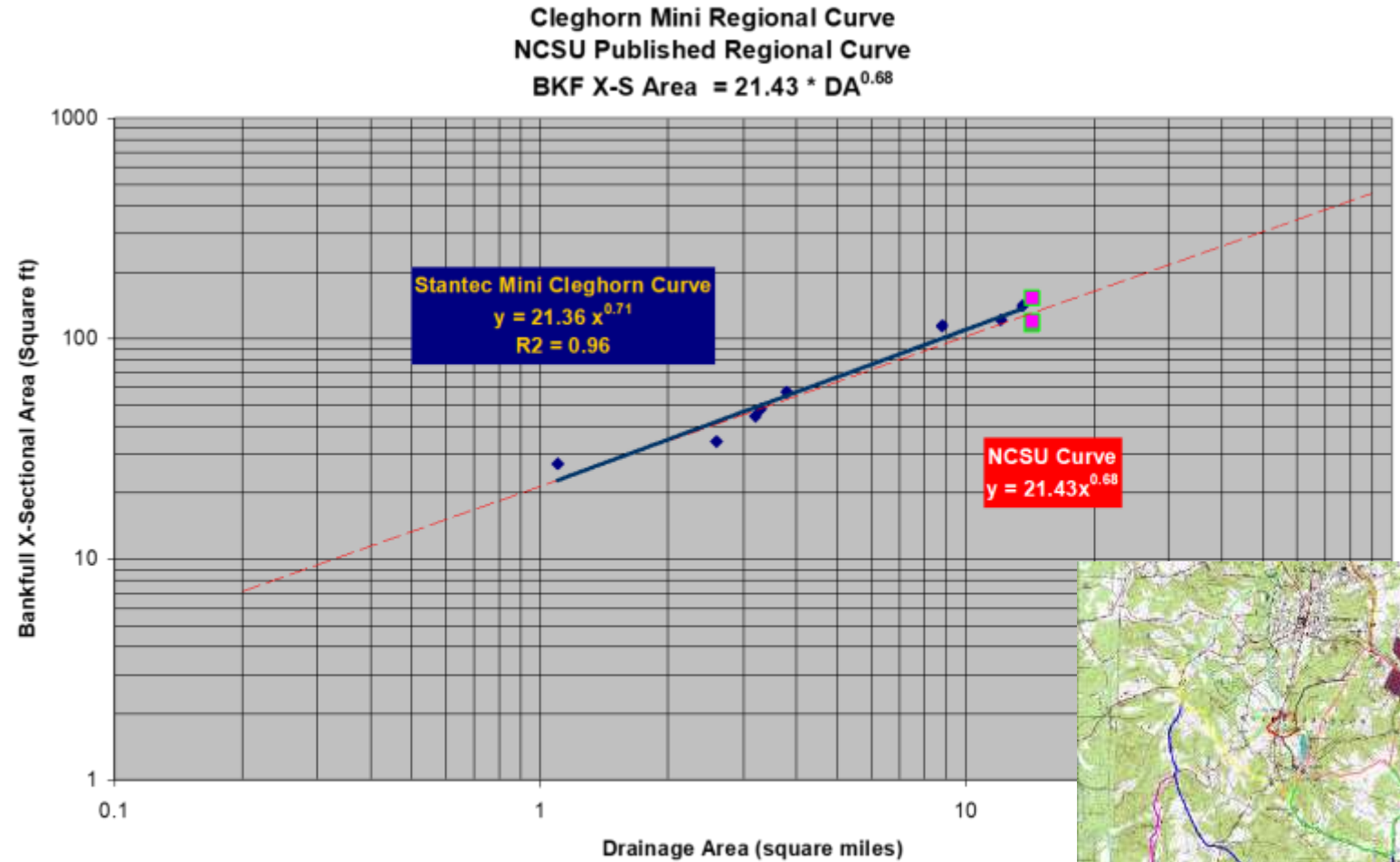


Use Mini-Regional Curves

Without or Without Gages



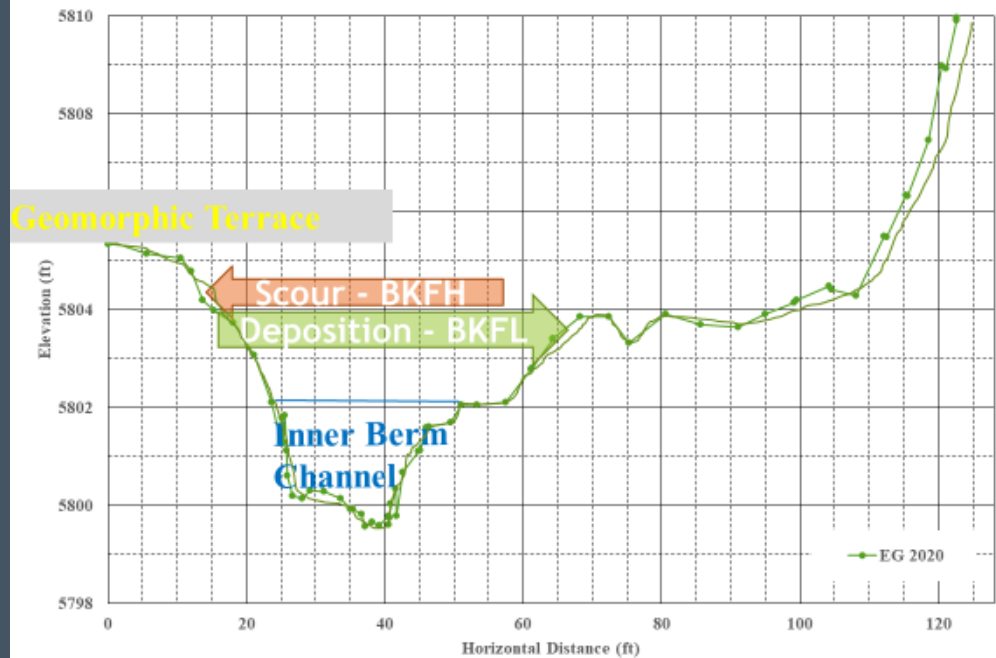
- Bankfull stage can not always be identified (Local data is useful)
- Use as a tool to determine a design bankfull dimension
- Bankfull dimensions do not always match the local regional relationship



Mini- Regional Curves

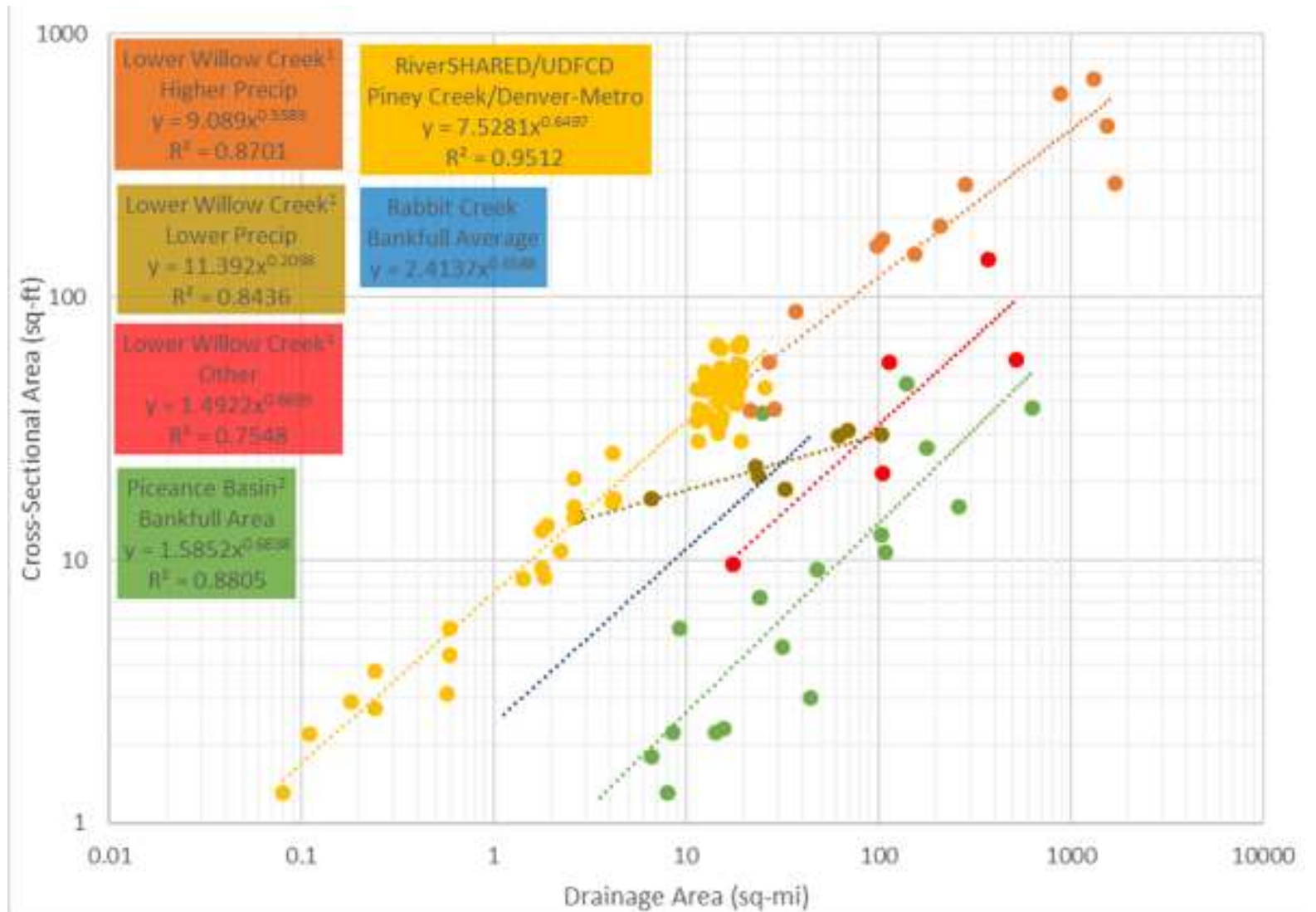
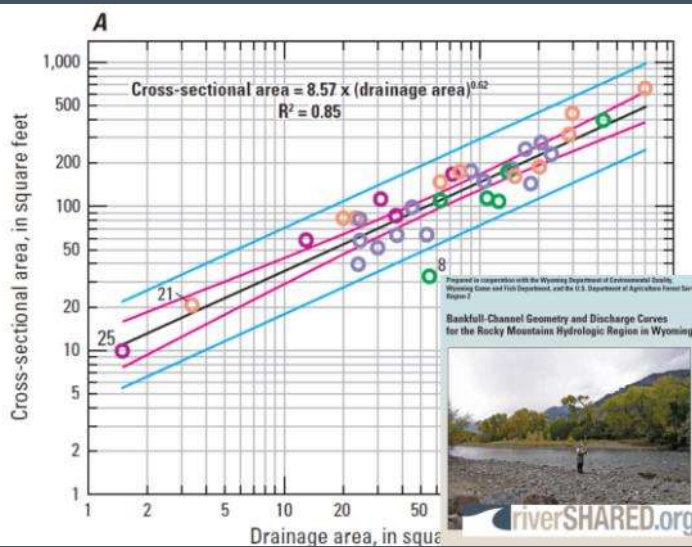
- When you don't know bankfull

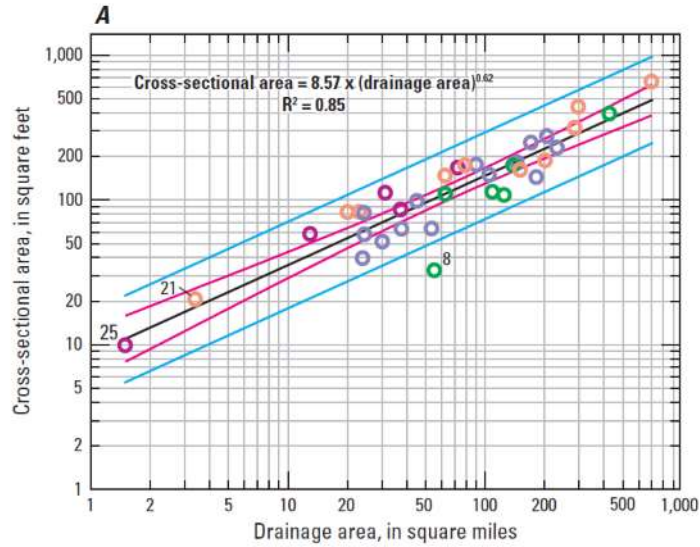
Rabbit Creek - Cross Section 26



Comparison of Mini-Curves

-to Published Data



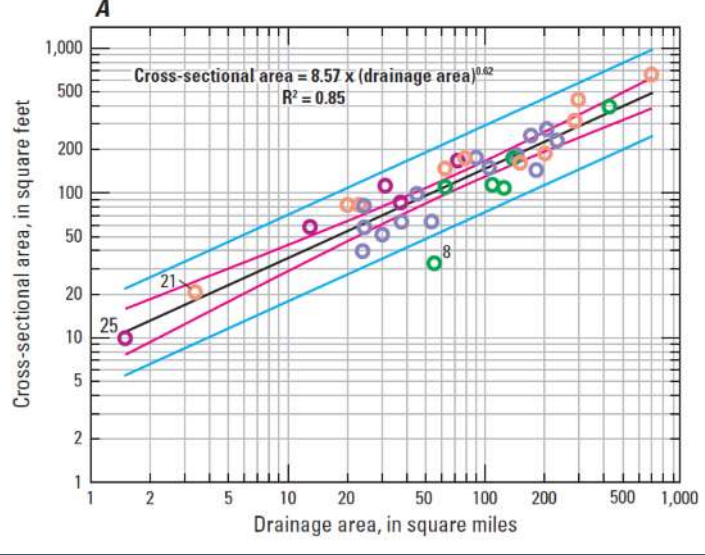


Watershed Response Factor – “C”

- Wyoming Regional Curve – USGS -2012

Drainage Area (sq mi)	C ₂	Original XS Area	C ₁	Discharge (cfs)	Mean Annual Precipitation (in)	Velocity (ft/s)	XS Area (sq ft)	Width (ft)	Depth (ft)	BKF WS Slope (ft/ft)	Return Interval (Rt)	Exceedence Probability (%)	Log DA	Log Q	Log XS Area	Log Width	Log Depth	
3	2.1	8.2	21.7	10.4	66	30.7	3.04	17.17	17.67	1.31	0.00056	1.4	73.7	0.477121	1.819544	1.23477	1.247237	0.117271
13	5.6	8.1	66.6	11.9	287	48.6	4.31	45.10	30.67	2.18	0.03363	1.8	57.1	1.113943	2.457882	1.654177	1.486714	0.338456
20	7.4	10.5	92.6	12.4	393	31.2	4.23	78.00	38.76	2.41	0.01373	1.3	76	1.30103	2.594393	1.892095	1.588384	0.382017
23	8.2	10.4	111.4	13.6	358	31.9	3.21	84.80	52.0	2.2	0.00191	1.0	98.1	1.361728	2.553883	1.928396	1.715836	0.334454
24	8.4	9.6	98.4	11.7	360	29.7	3.66	81.10	58.12	1.69	0.01972	1.3	80	1.380211	2.556303	1.909021	1.764326	0.227887
25	8.6	7.6	58.4	6.8	260	25.4	4.69	65.45	37.23	1.6	0.01134	1.6	61.5	1.39794	2.414973	1.81591	1.570893	0.20412
30	9.8	8.4	55.4	5.7	241	25.8	3.99	81.6	31.3	1.77	0.013	1.5	75.8	1.477121	2.382017	1.91169	1.495544	0.247973
37	11.2	9.5	106.2	9.5	555	35.9	5.22	106.23	44.47	2.39	0.0209	1.7	59.6	1.568202	2.744293	2.026247	1.648067	0.378398
38	11.4	9.3	51.0	4.5	190	24.6	4.07	106.75	30.16	1.69	0.02422	1.3	76.2	1.579784	2.278754	2.028368	1.479431	0.227887
45	12.8	8.1	81.6	6.4	394	25.3	4.83	103.9	36.89	2.21	0.02346	1.3	76	1.653213	2.595496	2.016616	1.566909	0.344392
54	14.5	8.0	67.1	4.6	348	26.7	5.18	115.25	59.34	1.19	0.02953	1.8	59	1.732394	2.541579	2.061641	1.773348	0.075547
55	14.7	5.3	39.9	2.7	137	20.5	3.44	77.1	34.44	1.18	0.01428	1.3	76.3	1.740363	2.136721	1.887054	1.537063	0.071882
63	16.1	8.7	186.0	11.6	1030	34.9	5.54	139.3	54.78	3.4	0.00669	1.7	58.9	1.799341	3.012837	2.143951	1.738622	0.531479
63	16.1	9.0	98.5	6.1	392	24.2	3.98	144.8	44.08	2.15	0.01073	1.5	65.4	1.799341	2.593286	2.160769	1.644242	0.332438
73	17.7	9.0	166.8	9.4	838	45.1	5.02	159.95	58.5	2.87	0.01353	1.4	72.3	1.863323	2.923244	2.203984	1.767156	0.457882
79	18.7	8.9	258.7	13.8	1068	30.4	4.13	165.4	97.81	2.7	0.00351	1.3	75	1.897627	3.028571	2.218536	1.990383	0.431364
81	19.0	5.2	39.3	2.1	231	16.9	5.82	99.2	29.51	1.41	0.00734	1.5	68.4	1.908485	2.363612	1.996512	1.469969	0.149219
87	19.9	3.2	63.8	3.2	323	21.5	5.07	63.77	43.38	1.54	0.01509	1.3	74.4	1.939519	2.509203	1.804616	1.63729	0.187521
90	20.4	8.6	346.0	17.0	955	29.9	2.76	174.7	132.28	2.82	0.00012	1.6	62.5	1.954243	2.980003	2.242293	2.121494	0.450249
125	25.4	6.1	95.0	3.7	480	22.1	5.06	154.35	47.86	1.98	0.00381	1.5	67.1	2.09691	2.681241	2.188507	1.679973	0.296665
139	27.3	8.9	152.7	5.6	698	22.8	4.57	243.05	64.01	2.42	0.01862	2.0	50	2.143015	2.843855	2.385696	1.806248	0.383815
232	38.4	7.2	212.5	5.5	1000	28.3	4.67	277.2	71.65	3	0.0053	1.5	64.9	2.365488	3	2.442793	1.855216	0.477121
297	45.4	8.2	371.2	8.2	3400	32.6	8.2	371.21	126.38	2.94	0.00474	1.5	68.5	2.472756	3.531479	2.56962	2.101678	0.468347
427	57.9	8.2	347.8	6.0	2542	24.8	7.31	472.8	152.45	2.29	0.0061	1.4	71.9	2.630428	3.405176	2.674677	2.183127	0.359835
699	80.5	8.1	669.1	8.3	5955	30.8	8.9	654.7	158.51	4.23	0.00688	1.8	54.5	2.844477	3.774882	2.816042	2.200057	0.62634

$$“C” = A_{BKF} / DA^{0.68}$$

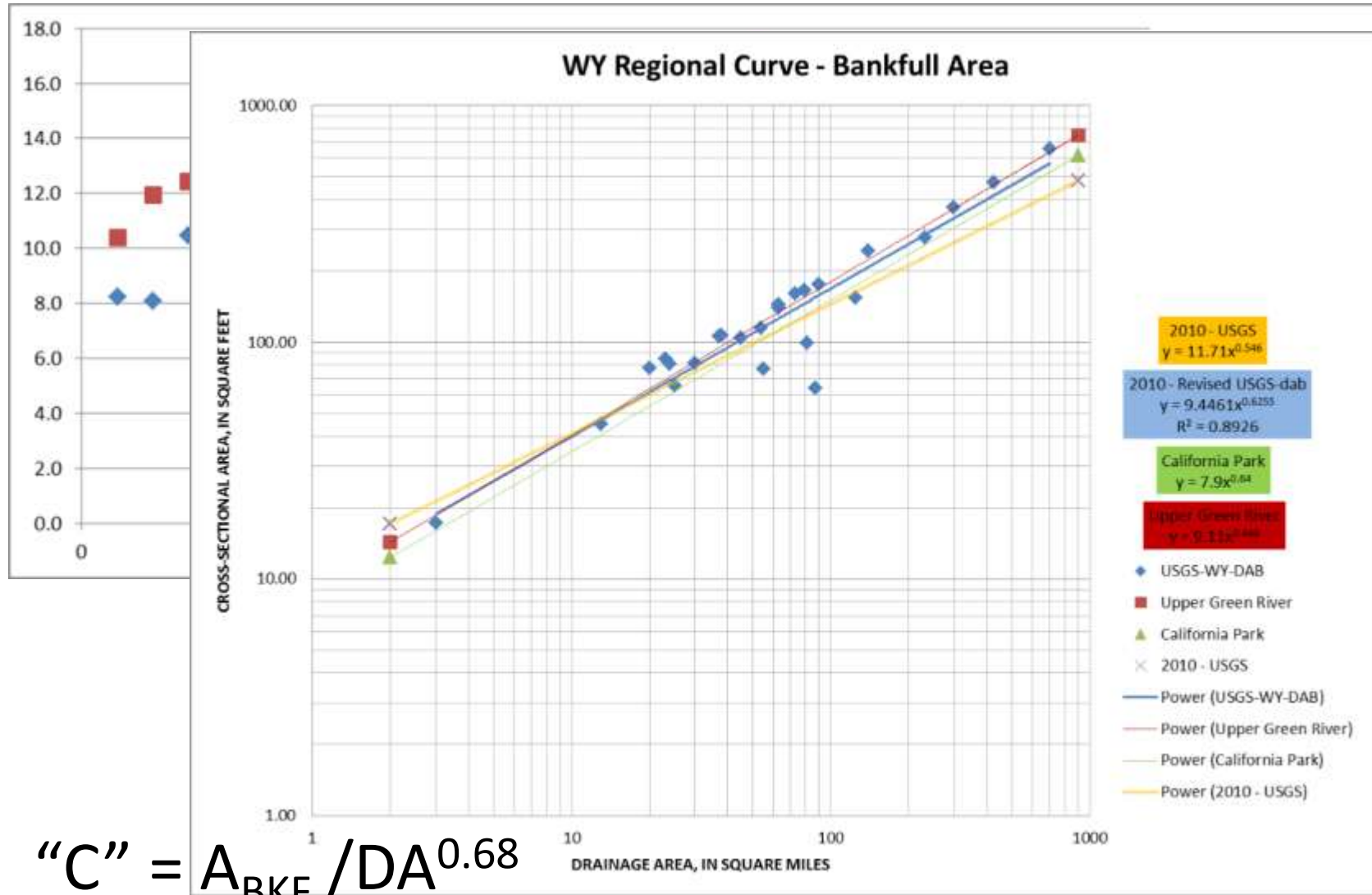


Watershed Response Factor – “C”

- Wyoming Regional Curve – USGS - 2012

• Geomorphic Assessment

- Departure analysis
- Watershed health



$$“C” = A_{BKF} / DA^{0.68}$$

$$“C” = A_{BKF} / DA^{0.68}$$

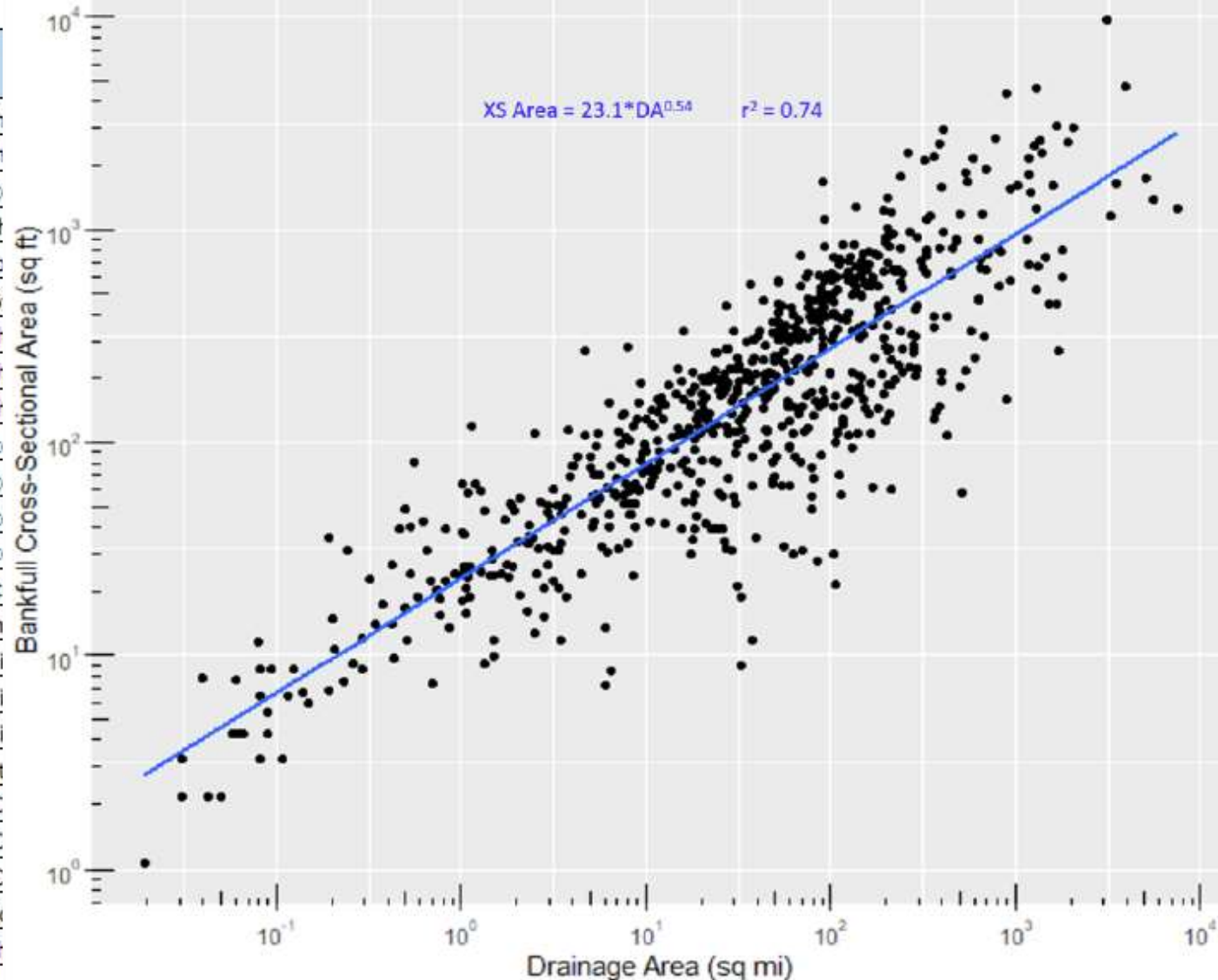
Ryan Baird – Spring 2022

Dr. Peter Nelson – CSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering



Figure 1. Physiographic Map of the United States (Fenneman and Johnson 1946)

Number	Curve ID	
1	AL_1	(Bran
2	AL_2	(Bran
3	AL_3	(Met
4	AR_1	(Pugt
5	AZ_1	(Moc
6	CO_1	(Ellio
7	CO_2a	(Yoch
8	CO_2b	(Yoch
9	CO_2c	(Yoch
10	FL_1	(Met
11	FL_2	(Met
12	FL_3a	(Met
13	FL_3b	(Met
14	ID_1	(Cast
15	ID_2	(Emn
16	IN_1a	(Robi
17	IN_1b	(Robi
18	IN_1c	(Robi
19	MA_1	(Bent
20	MD_1	(McC
21	MD_2	(McC
22	MD_3	(McC
23	MD_4	(Krst
24	MI_1	(Ract



$$“C” = A_{BKF} / DA^{0.68}$$

Ryan Baird – Spring 2022

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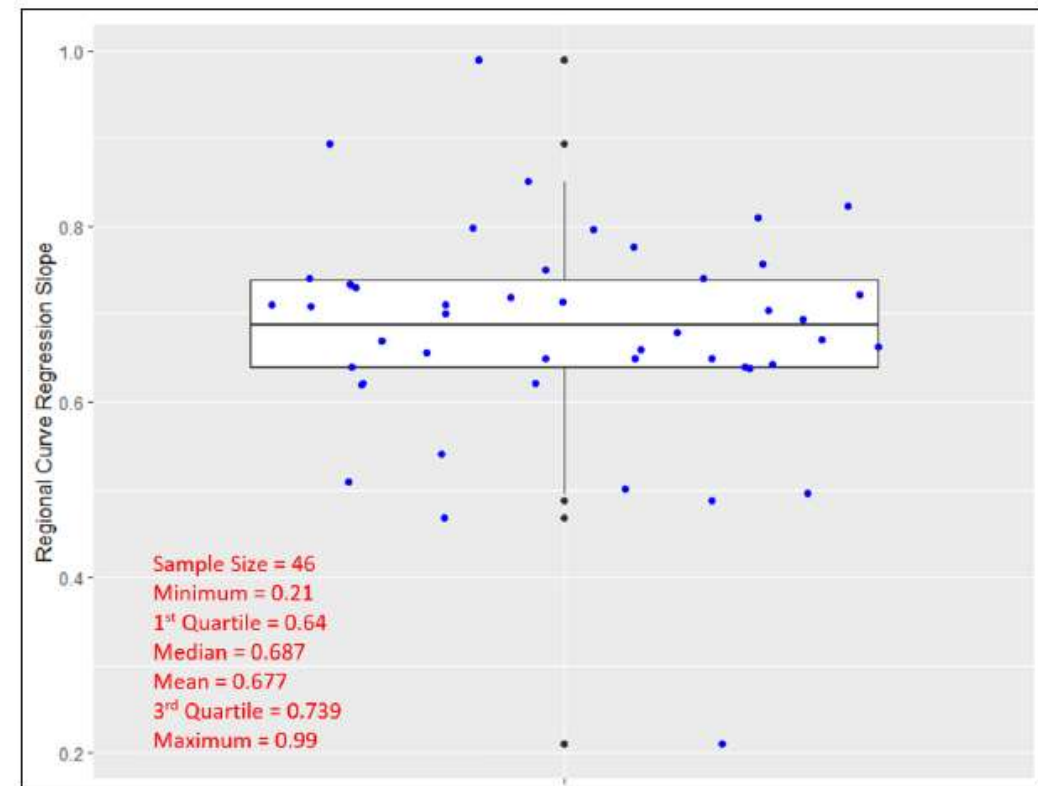
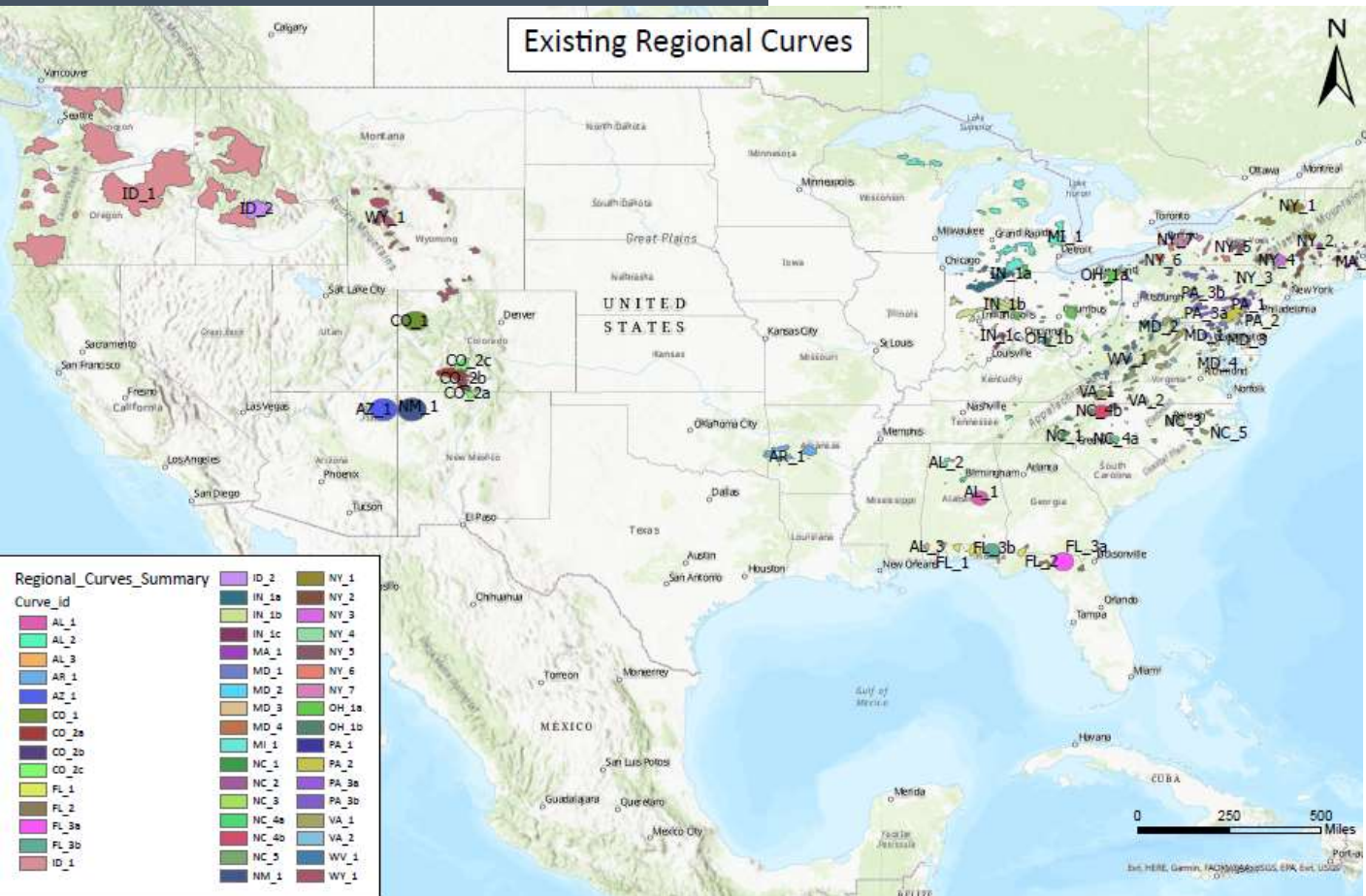


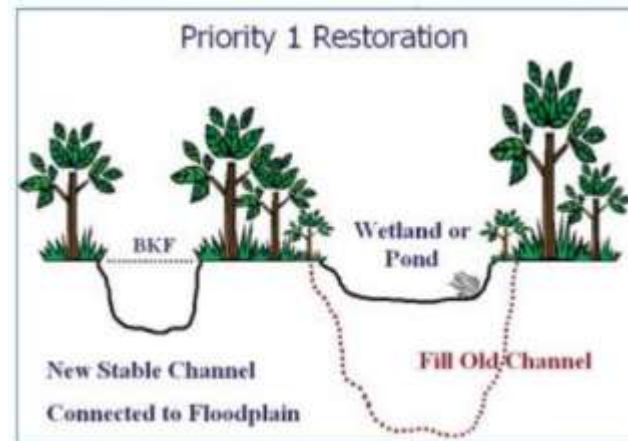
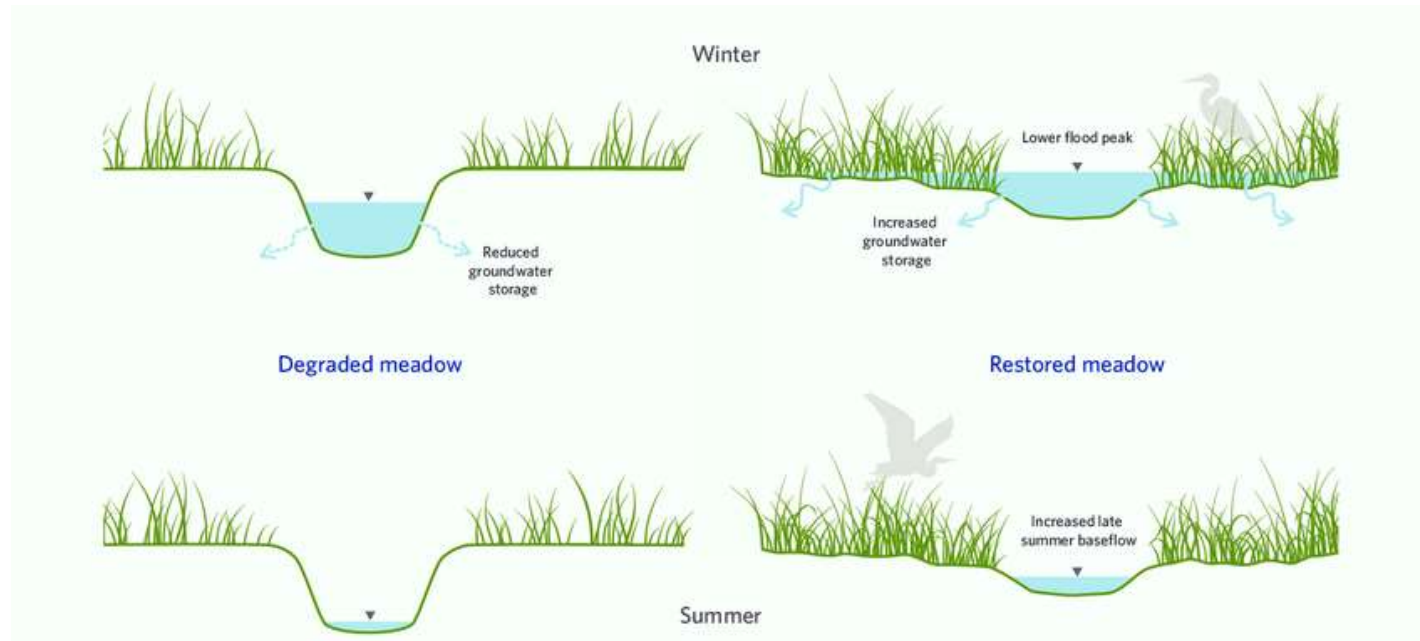
Figure 5. Existing regional curve regression slope distribution

$$“C” = A_{BKF} / DA^{0.68}$$

Watershed Response Factor

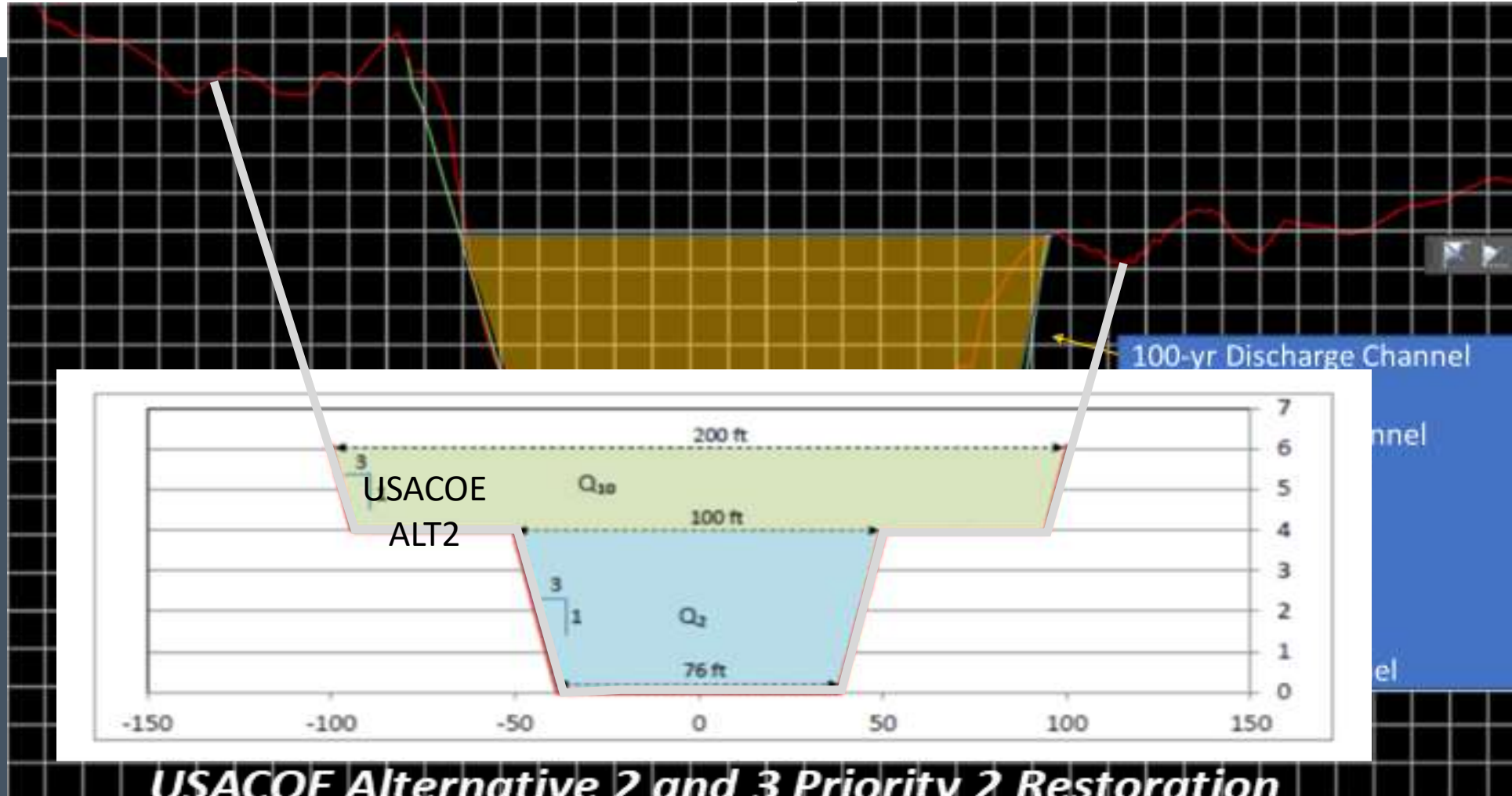
- Properly size a river channel

- Urbanization
 - 4-stage urban channels
 - Do not over widen bankfull discharge
- Terrorism
 - Encourage groundwater recharge
 - Reduce the need for surface water infrastructure
- Runoff Rates
 - Encourage groundwater storage and
 - Reduced stormwater discharge rates
- Evaporation/Transpiration
 - Reduce the need for surface water infrastructure with large E/T Losses
- Agricultural Water
 - Promote subirrigation
 - Groundwater recharge
- Drought
 - Usable groundwater storage



Watershed Response Factor

- Global implications for using a tool to address water security





Watershed Response Factor

- Global implications for using a tool to address water security

Summary:

- Bankfull can have a high degree of uncertainty
- Inner-Berm and other Geomorphic Features should be separated on curves
- Average Regression Slope ~0.68 Range 95% (0.61 – 0.76)
- Watersheds can't have a linear Regression Slope
- Watershed Response Factor as a geomorphic indicator
- Compare relationships to published USGS Regressions as well as other bankfull regional curves
- Regional curve development for new regions should always be compared to existing data as a reference
- Localized mini-regional curves can be used for design purposes
- Local data (upstream, downstream, nearby streams) are always essential to add confidence to predictive relationships developed elsewhere.

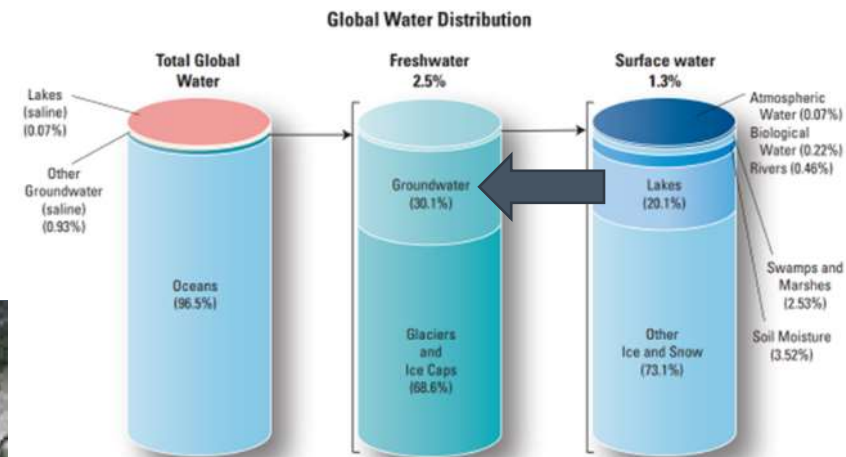
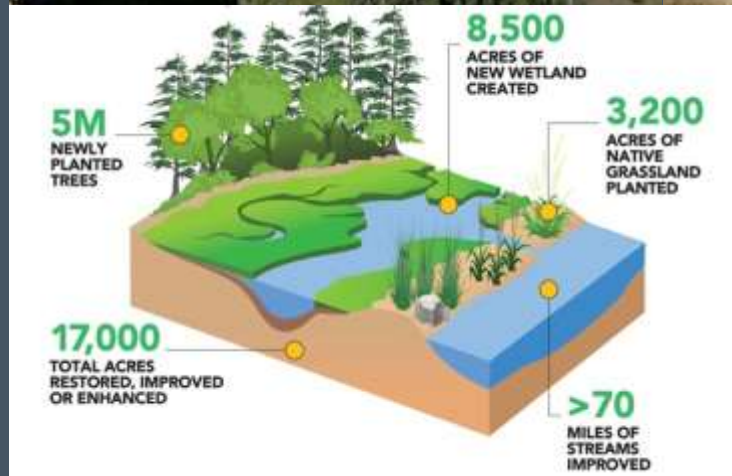


Figure 1. Data taken from United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, 2006.





Questions ?

Comments !

Thank you for your time

David Bidelspach

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919-218-0864