Terrain Analysis

- Many factors with the terrain affect watershed processes which include watershed configuration, topography, geology, surface culture, structures.
- Moisture index can show relative areas of high water accumulation to flat areas. Has been used as a proxy for hydric soils and potential wetland areas.
- Curvature with convexity and concavity is related to moisture but different in that it provides more regional perspective and analysis of topography.
- A cost distance approach can be better than a set buffer width when delineating riparian areas.
- SSURGO data can now be easily downloaded and related to tables using the ESRI map viewer and download.
- There are many terrain analysis toolsets available to use and run in ArcGIS with spatial data.
- Terrain roughness can be used to help calculate mannings n numbers for watersheds and streams.
- The challenge in using many of the terrain analysis tools is relating them to an endpoint while balancing functions of scale.
- A very good use and application of terrain tools is to explore the data to see and determine variables that were not obvious.

Student Notes:

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