

Interactive comment on “Hurricane impacts on a pair of coastal forested watersheds: implications of selective hurricane damage to forest structure and streamflow dynamics” by A. D. Jayakaran et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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Review for HESSD, Jayakaran et al.

General Comments:

This is a well-written paper that looks at the magnitude and timing of changes in streamflow in relation to a hurricane event (i.e., Hugo). The study uses the paired watershed approach before and after the hurricane's landing in 1989. The authors found that there was a significant transformation in the hydrologic character of the two watersheds, which occurred soon after the hurricane's arrival. The study is well executed

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and I only have a few minor suggestions, including:

My main question is regarding how prevalent this kind of 'switch' in the hydrologic character of watersheds might be. For example, could long-term records at other sites be analyzed to explore this kind of behavior? While this analysis may not be a requirement for publication of this particular study, it could certainly improve the applicability and transferability of the findings of this study to other sites (and therefore explicitly couple hydrologic and vegetative growth into models, as the authors suggest).

Summary vs. Conclusions? I suggest deleting the sub-heading 'Summary' and leave that text as part of the Discussion.

Table 1: Could this table be presented as a bar plot?

Figure 4&5: Could these figures be combined in one figure?

Figure 7: Could you reduce the extent of the y axis to better visualize the differences?

Figure 9: Could you add error bars to the dots?

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 10, 11519, 2013.

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