

***Interactive comment on* “Effects of vegetation patterns on yields of the surface and subsurface waters in the Heishui Alpine Valley in west China” by Y. Liu et al.**

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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The authors have adequately considered my earlier comments and suggestions, although I cannot finally judge the quality of the manuscript as only the revised excerpts were submitted (excluding the relevant new figures 5 and 6; and, it is not clear whether Fig. 5 was changed or whether there is an additional Figure &, please clarify). Also, from what can be deduced from the changed text passages, the language is considerably improved (by invitation of a native speaker). Further suggestions that the authors should consider are as follows:

1) Effects of precipitation were excluded by choosing a dry period. This is okay, but how long did the dry period last before the samples were taken? I.e. can it be excluded

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that runoff is unaffected by preceding precipitation events?

2) Rewrite "paired-watershed analysis" instead of "paired-watershed" (the sentence preceding "Hibbert (1967)").

3) In response to my earlier question 4 (Q4) the authors write that they focus the study on "the relationship between vegetation pattern and water yield in spatial scale ... during the transition period from low flow to high flow". Has this been stated so clearly in the paper itself?

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, 1021, 2006.

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