

Interactive comment on “Impacts of changes in vegetation cover on soil water heat coupling in an alpine meadow, Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, China” by W. Genxu et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 27 November 2008

Review of 8216; Impacts of changes in vegetation cover on soil water heat coupling in an alpine meadow, Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, China 8217;

Abstract

line 24: reword " downward transmitted of heat flux decreased.";

1 Introduction

page 4 line 5-6: I know what is meant, but clarify "(warming moister)8221;. Same for "(warming drier)"; on line 8.

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2 Study Area

page 5 line 1 and forward: It may (or may not) be useful to include the common names of vegetative species in addition to the scientific names.

Page 5 line 7: I could not find the acronym NDVI defined. I assume it is some type of vegetation index or similar.

Page 6 line 4: reword 8220;Due to the summer monsoon generally occurs [8230;]8221;

3 Methodology

Page 8 line 5: SHOW model later referred to as SHAW model (assuming they reference the same model)

Page 8 line 5: redundancy in 8220;dearth lack8221;

Page 11 line 4: 8216;lesser8217; implies qualitatively inferior to me, which I don8217;t believe is your intent.

Page 11 line 5: The sentence beginning 8216;The statistic relation8217; is grammatically inconsistent somewhere, depending on its intended message.

4 Results

Page 11 line 25: change 8216;lesser8217;

Page 12 line 1: spelling 8216;Novembers8217;

Page 12 line 3: unsure exactly what is meant by 8216;[8230;] terminal September.8217;

Page 12 line 24: perhaps 8216;that were8217; could be replaced by something in the present tense

Page 14 line 22: The sentence beginning 8216;However [8230;]8217; needs to be rewritten.

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Page 15 line 6: Use of ;, as well as the whole sentence needing a rewrite.

Page 15 lines 10-15: You a log fit is best for one vegetation case and a hyperbolic function was best for another; is there any justification for either of these functions in terms of the physical processes acting between vegetation, soil, moisture, and atmosphere?

Discussion and Conclusions

These sections need a general proofreading for grammar, as there are numerous mistakes and awkward structures.

General Comments

Overall, the level of English is quite good. I have addressed some of the issues above, but the entire manuscript could really use a good polishing. Having said that the manuscript reads very transparently. The authors' meaning is clear, and the paper leaves the reader with the feeling that something has been accomplished.

I would like to see in the Discussion some comparison made with studies from other areas, like those described in the Introduction. Particularly, whether climate change will have a positive or negative influence on soil moisture in permafrost areas covered by similar vegetation.

The only aspect of the paper that limits the scope of the results is that it is restricted to permafrost meadows. It would be great to see the authors apply similar methodologies to other vegetation types.

I recommend the paper be accepted following the minor revisions outlined above.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 5, 2543, 2008.

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