

## ***Interactive comment on “Value of medium range weather forecasts in the improvement of seasonal hydrologic prediction skill” by S. Shukla et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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The paper deals with medium range predictions and the potential improvements such forecasts can provide on the seasonal forecast horizon. I enjoyed reading the paper and found it very interesting. I have a very low number of comments (I will not repeat the once which are equivalent to the once by the previous reviewer). My only major comment is that I would have liked to see a comparison with seasonal forecasts. Such forecasts should be in between the forecasts used and the raw ESP (in terms of quality) and would have made a nice addition.

Minor comments:

P1833 “There is no such proxy available for evaluation of forecasted monthly mean soil moisture”. Please qualify as there is a plethora of satellite based monthly mean soil  
C1665

moistures of varying quality. Your approach is sensible, but needs a better justification

P1834 The 0.5 degree resolution is the native grid of the observed data set. Please add this resolution to p1833, after Maurer et al (2002).

P1834, Section 2.1.3 Please explain and discuss the spatial and temporal patterns of figure 2 and 3.

P1835/ L1 You state the advantages of using the ensemble mean. Please, add some words of cautions w.r.t. ensemble mean. The ensemble mean will have a lower activity, show less extremes and not the same straightforward physical interpretation as individual ensemble traces.

P1836, Figure 4: what do you mean by skill not significant (not significant different from 0??).

P1840 4. Discussion Please revise the first sentence of discussion as I found it difficult to understand.

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