

***Interactive comment on* “Soil moisture controls on patterns of grass green-up in Inner Mongolia: an index based approach” by H. Liu et al.**

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The paper discussed the role of the water availability in the vegetation phenology of semi-arid regions. The remote sensing data, observed temperature and precipitation, and soil moisture database from the hydrological model are employed in the paper. In capturing grassland spring phenology, the study shows the soil moisture based index is better than the precipitation based index. Both of the method and the results are useful for the relative researchers.

In the paper, there are many abbreviations in the paper, such as SMSO, PSO, TSO and others. If the full name are used in the "4 Discussion and conclusions" and captions of figures, such as in Figure 10, 11 and 12, it would be helpful to understand the peper.

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In Fig. 1, the legend of scale should be replaced by a clear one or deleted.

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