

Interactive comment on “Spatial variations of deep soil moisture and the influencing factors in the Loess Plateau, China” by X. N. Fang et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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The Fang et al. paper on the spatial variation of deep soil moisture in the Loess Plateau is in general well-written and it presented a very comprehensive dataset that was rarely available anywhere else. I only have a few minor comments.

1. The authors should what they meant by "deep soil moisture" early in the introduction. How deep they investigated, and the temporal and spatial scale of their experiment.
2. There are many very long paragraphs, please break them into two or more short sections.
3. I was wondering how the soil moisture was measured, did they dig a 5-m hole for each profile, or use any technology that is able to reach up to 5 m without digging a hole? If they indeed dug hole for each site, how they did it? The paper did not make it clear in all these details. It would be very impressive to dig 151, 5-m soil profile holes

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for any study.

4. Please check out some of my comments in the paper.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/hess-2016-22/hess-2016-22-RC3-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., doi:10.5194/hess-2016-22, 2016.

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