

Interactive comment on “Hydrological recovery in two large forested watersheds of Southeastern China: importance of watershed property in determining hydrological responses to reforestation” by Wenfei Liu et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting and informative manuscript. I believe your readership will find the paper valuable as it presents novel findings for a topic area often overlooked in the literature. Consequently, I recommend the manuscript be accepted for publication following some technical corrections. For ease of presentation I present them below:

- page 1 line 18 different vs contrasted - page 1 line 18 - state the different watershed properties - is it more than slope? - page 1 line 22 - explain year-wise method or be

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more general in the description - page 1 line 14-15 - explain concept of hydrologic recovery associated with tree growth. - page 3 line 7 - properties vs. property - page 3 line 12 - define global analysis - page 3 line 14 - is it climate or weather - there are scale differences. - page 3 line 15 "which directly flows into the Yangtze...." - page 4 line 5 - "reach of the Yangtze" - page 4 line 5 - is or would be? - page 4 line 7 - have been vs. are - page 4 line 16 respond vs. responds - page 4 line 16 different vs. contrasted - page 5 line 14 "... watersheds are within the subtropical monsoon zone and have a similar precipitation regime." - page 5 line 16 - most vs mostly and also please provide rough proportions for seasonal precipitation - page 6 line 6 correspond vs (s) - page 6 line 7 "Pingjiang watershed and are 2.3 to 20.1 m³/s in the Xiangshui watershed. - page 6 line 16 Stream flow data area available from 1957 to 2014 for both watersheds. -page 7 line 12 onwards - font - page 8 line 13 - median is not capitalized page 12 line 4 - p=0.21 and 0.27 ? How are these p-values associated with a marginally higher median flow? - page 12 section 4.3 - would benefit from details on regrowth metrics such as canopy closure or height and a comparison between basins. - page 13 line 4 0.049 - page 13 line 18 - s after enhance and reduce - page 14 - line 2 - how were low-flows improved? - page 14 line 17 - South Africa - page 15, line 3 - humid regions - on another note curious that increase in vegetation leads to greater net precipitation - page 15 line 8 - between the two studied.... - page 16 line 10 - careful with this statement because watershed characteristics/properties such as slope have long been recognized as having a significant influence on runoff.

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