

Interactive comment on “Diagnosis of future changes in hydrology for a Canadian Rocky Mountain headwater basin” by Xing Fang and John W. Pomeroy

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript presents a climate change study for a small Canadian Rocky Mountain headwater basin. As process understanding has to be developed at the local scale, such regional/local studies are of a high value. The study is presented in a concise way and contributes well to current discussions. Small changes could improve the readability of the paper (see detailed comments). However, I would strongly recommend to add a discussion on the uncertainty of the hydrological modelling results. The results chapter is full of numbers, partly with a high number of positions after the decimal point suggesting a high accuracy. However, depending on the model design and the catchment characteristics, some results of hydrological modelling are more reliable than others. If, e.g., a model does not represent hydrophobic effects and

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if they play an important role in a catchment, then the model may simulate overall runoff with a satisfying efficiency but the calculated portion of Hortonian overland flow calculated by the model will be less reliable in this case. Thus, for readers not familiar with CRHM, a discussion on the strengths and especially weaknesses of the model concepts and the resulting reliability of the model results would be very valuable. For detailed comments see attached file.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/hess-2019-640/hess-2019-640-RC1-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2019-640>, 2020.

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