

Minor revisions of HESS-2023-308: Response to reviewers

Reviewer 1: Many thanks to the authors for the revision. Most of my concerns have been addressed in the revised manuscript. The authors have clarified the runoff concept and highlighted the accuracies of the isoscapes.

Thanks for taking the time to re-review the manuscript!

However, considering that there is still room for the improvement of this work in terms of the temporal scale and dataset choice, just as mentioned in the response letter, I would like to suggest authors to address these limitations and future directions in the main text by 2~3 sentences.

Good point. Since the manuscript doesn't have a specific 'limitations' section, I've included these ideas as discussion points at the end of section 3.1, where the observation-model differences are presented and discussed, and the end of section 3.3, where the limitations of the statistical analysis relating irrigation to the isotopic response are discussed and finally in the conclusions section.

One minor issue: there is only one sub-section 3.4.1 in the section 3.4. Please check it.

Good catch. I have adjusted the sections so section 3.4 is generally about additional lines of evidence supporting the main finding from section 4, with subsections 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 which detail evidence from our data and from other literature and data sources, respectively.

Reviewer 2: A minor revision is needed to the text to reflect a change the authors made in the data used for the water use evaluation.

I checked the text thoroughly and am not sure exactly where this change needs to be made. The references to the data used for the water use analysis are general and accurate in the main text and only specific in the SI. Everything in the SI has been updated to the correct values. I am wondering if the reviewer is referring to the references I make to the 2015 water use dataset in the introduction? These references simply discuss general patterns in water use in the basins (i.e., 80% of water use in western states is for irrigation). It is appropriate to keep those references to the 2015 water use report, even though we use more data in our analysis.

Reviewer 3: No comments.