

Response to referees' comments (SE-2014-109)

Manuscript title: Responses of vertical soil moisture to rainfall pulses and land uses in a typical loess hilly area, China.

Authors: Y. Yu, W. Wei, L. D. Chen, L. Yang, F. Y. Jia, H. D. Zhang and T.J. Feng

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your valuable comments and considerate suggestions for our manuscript. These comments are helpful for improving our manuscript. We have made careful modifications and revisions on the original manuscript in response to all the reviewers' comments. We hope the new version of the revised manuscript would meet the Journal's standard. Answers to referee's questions are bold.

Anonymous referee #2:

Dear author, Your paper is an excellent contribution as you shown that vegetation determines the hydrological cycle and that forest is not a better manager of the soil water resources than grassland and scrubland. Your findings are of great help to the scientific community and I highly support the publication of your research. I suggest that in the introduction you will highlight the importance of the soil moisture in the Earth System.

Response: Thanks for the reviewer's positive evaluation for our manuscript. In the new version of the manuscript, we have carefully revised the introduction of the manuscript, and improved the quality as well as add the recent references according to the comments, both from you and another reviewer's suggestions. (See page 2, line 10-11; page 3, line 11-13) We hope the new version of the revised manuscript would meet the Journal's standard. Thanks for your positive comments once again.