

Clim. Past Discuss., referee comment RC4
<https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2021-5-RC4>, 2021
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Reply on AC4

Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "Monitoring landcover change and desertification processes in northern China and Mongolia using historical written sources and modern vegetation indices" by Michael Kempf, Clim. Past Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2021-5-RC4>, 2021

Thanks.

Results show that decreasing precipitation and temperature records led to increased land degradation during the late 17 th century.

Changes of plant morphology to adapt environmental change such as decreasing precipitation and temperature can be seen as 'degradation'? As I think, environmental issues caused by human can be regarded 'degradation'. Otherwise, they are natural laws.

Land degradation occurred during the later 17 century. This statement is lack of evidence, and perish of livestock may be too weak. If land degradation has occurred since that time, serious degradation has been continuous till now as population and economy growth even if climate becomes better in the study area. Of course, due to lack historical data, some things are easy disputable.