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Comment on hess-2021-100

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Response of water fluxes and biomass production to climate change in permanent grassland soil ecosystems" by Veronika Forstner et al., Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2021-100-RC1>, 2021

In this manuscript, Forstner et al examined the response of water balance components to climate change in the grassland using manipulative or observational approaches. The authors did a solid job on data processing and the topic itself is also important. However, base on the current version, I feel this manuscript still needs a better polish on the structure and writing.

- My major concern is manuscript writing. Overall, it hard to get the key message of this manuscript. For example, the abstract and conclusion sections are too long and almost the same length as the introduction section. I did not see the difference between the abstract, introduction, and conclusion sections. Too many details in the abstract and conclusion make me feel really difficult to get the key findings and conclusions of this paper.
- In the title "Response of water balance components to climate change in permanent grassland soil ecosystems". My first impression when I saw water balance components, I think AGB is not like ET and WUE which are directly related to the water balance component.
- The results and discussion part is overall too descriptive and lacks in-depth discussion. I expected to read more about the strengths and limitations of the manipulative or observational approaches for estimating the impact of climate change on the ecosystem, and some key guidance on how we could better use those methods in the future. However, it seems this part is still lack in the discussion. I would suggest the authors separate the results and discussion.