

Interactive comment on “Hydrological soil properties control tree regrowth after forest disturbance in the forest-steppe of central Mongolia” by Florian Schneider et al.

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Thank you for your valuable suggestions to improve the manuscript. We will reply to each of them below.

Specific comments:

Yes, we agree that “soil hydrology” needs to be included in the keywords. We prefer to keep “permafrost” in the keywords as well, because: although it turned out not relevant for forest regrowth, it does play an important role for forest distribution in the Mongolian forest-steppe, and we address this also several times in the paper. We will

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add information on the role of permafrost in the abstract to make this clearer from the beginning. Thanks for your suggestion regarding Figure 9. We will check, how we can best include the specific factors and illustrate the strengths of their effects, e.g., by arrows with different width. We will consider this comment by including low, moderate and severe disturbance more explicitly in the Discussion section.

Technical corrections:

We will reduce the number of citations, as you proposed. We will add the missing company name of the analytical instrument (Eijkelkamp). Yes, we will add the figure numbers behind “PCA” etc. to guide the reader directly to the respective figures. Yes, sorry. We will delete textbooks from the references. The cited PhD theses cannot be avoided, because they contain relevant information that was not published in a journal. Therefore, we cannot mention this information without citing these PhD theses. We are sorry about the mistakes in the reference list and will correct it according to your comments, concerning differences in abbreviations, spelling and missing information. We will reduce the German references as much as possible. However, we cannot ignore the Russian and Mongolian references, as they provide a source of information that is not available elsewhere. We will move the climate diagram to the supplement.

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2020-52>, 2020.

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