Biogeosciences Discuss., 12, C4659–C4660, 2015
www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/12/C4659/2015/

Biogeosciences Discussions
Open Access

Interactive comment on "Characterizing Leaf Area Index (LAI) and Vertical Foliage Profile (VFP) over the United States" *by* H. Tang et al.

Z. Li

zhanli1986@gmail.com

Received and published: 24 August 2015

Very interesting results. First time to see the overall picture of the leaf area distribution at different canopy heights across different ecosystems at a continental scale. The results reveal many interesting findings that might be related to either the lidar-based methodology (above-canopy waveform) or some truly important implication to canopy vertical structure over the conterminous US land. The table 1 and figure 8 are the most interesting results here in my opinion. No other data source than lidar, airborne or spaceborne can gather such information over large scales. But the leaf area across all the ecoregions and land cover types are all skewed towards the lower canopy (0-10

Full Screen / Esc
Printer-friendly Version
Interactive Discussion
Discussion Paper

m). 0-10 m holds the largest leaf area compared to mid- and upper- canopy for all the ecoregions. Does this say that we have long overlooked the leaf area contribution by understory vegetations? Or could this be some artifact from the VFP retrieval methods?

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 12, 13675, 2015.