

Interactive comment on “Nitrogen enrichment enhances the dominance of grasses over forbs in a temperate steppe ecosystem” by L. Song et al.

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Editor comments for BG Discussion paper: Song et al.

The two reviews provide a good basis from which to improve the manuscript. Please respond to each question made by both reviewers. In addition to the points made by reviewers a set of literature that describes studies in a North American shortgrass steppe ecosystem need to be incorporated into the paper's literature review and discussion. Example of relevant papers include:

Dodd, J.L. and W.K. Lauenroth. 1979. Analysis of the response of a grassland ecosystem to stress. Pp. 43-48. In. N.R. French (ed) Perspectives in grassland ecology. Springer-Verlag, New York.

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Discussion Paper



Lauenroth et al. 1978. The effect of water and nitrogen-induced stresses on plant community structure in a semiarid grassland. *Oecologia*, 36:211-222.

and a general overview paper: Lauenroth et al. 2008. Net primary production in the shortgrass steppe. In: W.K. Lauenroth and Ingrid C. Burke (eds) *Ecology of the Shortgrass Steppe: A long-term perspective*, LTER Research Network Series, Oxford University Press. Pp 270-305.

Of particular importance is the impact of soil moisture on plant production in the semi-arid system. The shortgrass steppe studies bring out the importance of growing season precipitation patterns on annual net primary production and the interactions with nitrogen fertilization.

Interactive comment on *Biogeosciences Discuss.*, 8, 5057, 2011.

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