

28 June 2018

Dr. Jens-Arne Subke
Editor
Biogeosciences
jens-arne.subke@stir.ac.uk

Interactive comment on “Grazing increases litter decomposition rate but decreases nitrogen release rate in an alpine meadow” by Yi Sun et al.

Dear Dr. Subke,

We appreciate your letter on 26 June 2018. We have accepted all of your suggestions and made revisions accordingly. Those revisions have been highlighted (Green) in the final manuscript for your convenience.

Your suggestions	Revisions in the final manuscript
Line 42: “1990s”	Line 41
Line 43: “have recently been...”	Line 43
Lines 123-125: Avoid using brackets if possible. Here for example: “Three sampling methods were designed to minimize the sample variance caused by the uneven litter distribution and to ensure the similar composition and quality of litter used for this and the next experiment: (1) half alongside, (2) half along diagonal, and (3) two sub-quarters (0.25×0.25 m) along diagonal (Supplemental Fig. 2).”	Lines 123-125
Line 191: “55”, rather than “fifty-five”.	Line 191
Line 266: Delete “Firstly”.	Line 266
Lines 304-307: this sentence is hard to follow. I suggest the following: “Thus, soil properties are unlikely to be significantly changed through grazing or grazing exclusion over relatively short periods, indicating that limited grazing events have a smaller effect on litter decomposition under cool environments on the QTP than in experiments conducted in warmer climates.”	Lines 304-307

Thank you very much for considering our paper.

Sincerely yours,

Fujiang Hou

Professor of Pasture Science
College of Pastoral Agriculture Science and Technology
Lanzhou University
Lanzhou City, Gansu Province, P. R. China
E-mail: cyhoufj@lzu.edu.cn