

## ***Interactive comment on “Identifying a Transition Climate Zone in an Arid River Basin using a Hydrological Drought Index” by Libo Zhang et al.***

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Thanks for the valuable and insightful comments and suggestions. Revisions are made accordingly (please see the attached file as Supplement).

(1) A paragraph is added to discuss the significance of this study for the research on the Heihe River Basin (L420-439). Several existing studies on comprehensive monitoring, modeling and data manipulation, land cover and land use changes, streamflow, and vegetation are described. Supporting evidence and /or different interpretations from our study are provided. The discussion is focused on the relationships and interactions between the transitional middle HRB and other regions.

(2) A description of drought indices is added in the introduction section (L 80-111).

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The meteorological and hydrological droughts are defined. Several major drought indices for each of the two types of droughts are briefly described. Comparisons are made to indicate the circumstances for each index.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/nhess-2017-310/nhess-2017-310-AC1-supplement.pdf>

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Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2017-310>, 2018.

