Divergent long-term trends and interannual variation in ecosystem resource use efficiencies of a southern boreal old black spruce forest 1999–2017

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Acknowledgements:

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Glob Change Biol. 2019. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.14674

Background
Trend and variation
Controlling factors
Conclusion

Climate Change (increasing CO₂ concentration, warming temperature, precipitation change)

Resource supply change (carbon, light water... used for photosynthesis)

Resource use efficiency change Ecosystem structure and function (vegetation cover, diversity, productivity)



Increased WUE in response to CO₂ concentration

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature12291

Increase in forest water-use efficiency as atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations rise

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Geophysical Research Letters & A Increased light-use efficiency in northern terrestrial **RESEARCH LETTER** 10.1002/2016GL070710 ecosystems indicated by CO₂ and greening observations **Key Points:** Current terrestrial biosphere models underesti Global Ecology and Biogeography, (Global Ecol. Biogeogr.) (2014) 23, 144–155 cvcle am Models ca trends an Climate-driven global changes in carbon of light by RESEARCH Reconcilir PAPER use efficiency Yangjian Zhang^{1*}, Guirui Yu¹, Jian Yang², Michael C. Wimberly³, XianZhou Zhang¹, Jian Tao¹, Yanbin Jiang¹ and Juntao Zhu¹

Decreased WUE in response to CO₂ concentration



Primary Research Article

Change in terrestrial ecosystem water-use efficiency over the last three decades



Original Research

Dynamics and Controls of Carbon Use Efficiency across China's Grasslands

Inconsistent and inconclusive

Global Change Biology

Global Change Biology (2017) 23, 2755–2767, doi: 10.1111/gcb.13626

Emergent climate and CO₂ sensitivities of net primary productivity in ecosystem models do not agree with empirical data in temperate forests of eastern North

America

Forest response to elevated CO₂ is conserved across a broad range of productivity

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Full paper 🛛 🔂 Open Access 🛛 😨 👔

Where does the carbon go? A model-data intercomparison of vegetation carbon allocation and turnover processes at two temperate forest free-air CO₂ enrichment sites

Knowledge gaps

- How are the long-term trends in multiple ecosystem resource use effiencies (RUEs)?
- What are the key controlling factors on RUEs over a long-term period?

Material & Methods



Site location (Old black spruce)

Site nameOBSYear established1999Elevation (m)629Location53.9 °N, 105.1 °WMAT(°C)1MAP(mm)480

| Leaf area index 4.2 | 2 |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Depth of organic (cm) 20- | -30 |
| Soil carbon (kg C m-2) 39 | .2 |
| Stand density (stems ha-1) 59 | 00 |



- Long-dry period in 2001-2003
- Cold Ta in 2002 and 2004
- CO₂ concentration increasing with a slope of 0.5%

P: Precipitation WTD: water table depth D: vapor press deficit Ta: air temperature Ts: soil temperature APAR: absorbed PAR

- Plentiful *P* and low spring Ta in 2004
- Below average P in 2001-2003



Annual of spring T_a and growing season P during the study years 1999–2017.



- Re and GEP showed an increasing trend.
- Re had a greater increasing rate than GEP, causing NEP decrease significantly.
- E had no clear trend.

Interannual variation of annual C and water fluxes. The dashed lines denote interannual trends.



- Three methods-based Rh and Ra showed similar trends and variability.
- Three methods-based NPP were relatively constant over the long-term period.

Interannual variation of annual C water fluxes. The dashed lines denote interannual trends.



CUE showed a decreasing trend WUE and LUE showed an increasing trend.

Interannual variation in annual RUEs.



 CO_2 the was most important factor in explaining annual GEP. **Physiological** factor (**i.e. GEP_max**) explained more than the phenological index (**i.e. GSL,GS_onset**).

Relationships between the annual GEP and important climate variables.



When including the cold years, spring Ta was the most important factor in explaining detrended annual GEP

Fig. 10 Relationships between detrended GEP and important climate variables.



Air temperaturewas amost importantfactorexplainingannualdetrended RUEs

Fig.12 Relationships between important climatic factors and detrended RUEs



- CUE Normalized and LUE negatively were correlated,
- WUE Normalized and LUE positively were correlated.

- Annual GEP showed an increasing trend that was associated with CO₂. Inter-annual variation in annual GEP was positively related to spring Ta.
- Long-term trends in CUE, LUE and WUE, most likely caused by the 'CO₂ fertilization effect'. The inter-annual variability in the RUEs was most strongly related to air temperature.
- Annual LUE and WUE were positively correlated, while annual LUE and CUE were negatively correlated, and annual WUE showed no detectable relationships with CUE.