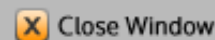




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CONTROL ID: 1496776**TITLE:** Understanding the causes of changing grassland use and productivity in Inner Mongolia, China

ABSTRACT BODY: Some dramatic changes of grassland use and productivity have been taking place in Inner Mongolia in the past half century. While the changes are apparently driven by both socio-economic factors and climate, their contribution and interaction are largely unknown. We hypothesize that population growth is an important driving force behind the loss and degradation of the grassland, the market forces and institutional factors such as de-collectivization are become more important factors as the economy is moving from planned economy to market economy. This paper assesses the effects of socio-economic, demographic, institutional and climate factors on grassland use and productivity using a panel data set. The panel data compose the years from 1970s to 2000s and all prefectures in Inner Mongolia. A generalized least squares estimation method, allowing individual effects for prefecture level are applied to the examination. The effect of climate change is tested as well and the coupled socio-economic system and the natural system are investigated.

CURRENT SECTION/FOCUS GROUP: Global Environmental Change**CURRENT SESSION:** GC019. Environmental, Socio-economic and Climatic Change in Northern Eurasia and Their Feedbacks to the Global Earth System**INDEX TERMS:** [1632] GLOBAL CHANGE / Land cover change, [1637] GLOBAL CHANGE / Regional climate change, [6319] POLICY SCIENCES / Institutions, [0402] BIOGEOSCIENCES / Agricultural systems.**AUTHORS/INSTITUTIONS:** Y. Zhang, L. Gao, School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, Auburn Univ, Auburn, AL;

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