

The authors have well addressed the reviewers comments. After a second review, there is a minor clarification needed as raised by one of the reviewers. Please justify why only the water year of 2013 is chosen to compare against Liu et al. dataset, and specifically if notable improvement over the Liu et al. was observed by comparing against in-situ observations. After making this clarification, the manuscript can be accepted for publication.

We selected the 2013 dataset (WY 2013) for specific reasons. Firstly, the length of our study precluded a comprehensive evaluation of the entire Liu et al. dataset (which spans the 2000 to 2013). While such an analysis might be informative, it exceeded the scope of our present study, whose goals were to evaluate the model versus observation based products. 2013 was also selected as it is a somewhat typical year in terms of precipitation (neither anomalously high nor low, as shown in Figure 4). Lastly, from a practical standpoint, 2013 is the most recent year of the Liu dataset, so it is the most pertinent point of comparison for researchers utilizing our dataset in investigations covering the last decade.

While we did not perform a direct skill comparison (i.e., model vs. observations), between Liu et al. and our 2013 dataset, we do find that the performance statistics reported in Liu et al. paper are similar to what we report. Both studies indicate higher precipitation skill during winter compared to summer (Figure 9 of their paper), which matches our results. Regarding bias, Liu et al. reported a small negative bias of -2% in average precipitation across all SNOTEL sites throughout the western United States. In contrast, we report a slightly lower bias of 0.25% (as indicated in line 445) when evaluated against the SNOTEL sites considered in our study. However, a more extensive analysis would be required to determine which model options were more skillful and in what circumstances.

The evaluation of precipitation performance in convection-permitting model studies holds significant scientific relevance, particularly as these studies become more common. We contend that a future investigation, aimed at intercomparing publicly available datasets, including ours, the Liu et al. 2017 dataset, the recently introduced CONUS404 dataset**, and others, could offer valuable insights. Nevertheless, such an endeavor falls beyond the scope of the current manuscript.

***Rasmussen, R. M., and Coauthors, 2023: CONUS404: The NCAR-USGS 4-km long-term regional hydroclimate reanalysis over the CONUS. Bull. Am. Meteorol. Soc., -1, <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-21-0326.1>.*