

Dear Carter et al,

Thank you very much for submitting your manuscript to the YSM special issue of *Climate of the Past* and for your responses to the reviewer's comments. We would like to submit your paper for major revisions and a second round of review. We agree with the reviewer's comments and look forward to your planned edits of the manuscript in line with their suggestions.

As additional editorial advice, we also request that in response to Reviewer 1 Comment 1 the method of testing for statistical significance should be included in the Data and Methods section of the paper. This section should include a response to the question of whether your results are sensitive to exclusion of any of the five composite members and to the choice of -1 standard deviation threshold.

To address Reviewer 1 Comment 2, the addition of an introductory paragraph on the climate analogue approach is welcomed. We further request that the assumptions underlying the climate analogue approach should also be discussed in the Discussion section and inform the Conclusions. We would also request that you address the suggestion to use CMIP5 simulations to test the assumptions in the MAT.

To help address Reviewer 2 Comment 2, we suggest removing Section 3.1 from the paper and expanding on the length and timing of the dry spell in the Introduction instead.

For Reviewer 2 Comment 3, we advise using the suggested references to develop your discussion further in light of other studies conducted in the area, and particularly in the context of your revised Figure 2b.

We would especially like to thank the reviewer's for their insightful and substantive comments which will ultimately make this a stronger paper. We look forward to seeing the revised manuscript.

Best wishes,
Heather (Handling Editor) and Mike Evans (Co-Editor)