



Observations on the Development of Ecohydrology as a Discipline: History and Future Opportunities

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To many, ecohydrology is viewed as a discipline covering feedbacks between the structure and function of vegetation and the movement and storage of water in the landscape. As such it bridges (and draws from) the 'parent' disciplines of ecology, hydrology, plant ecophysiology and meteorology. Because ecohydrology is relatively new it is not surprising that numerous papers have been published attempting to define the discipline and equally it is not surprising that some consider ecohydrology to be nothing more than a restatement of existing paradigms from watershed science and related disciplines.

In order evaluate what is unique about ecohydrology and to discuss potential future directions we outline the history of the discipline and describe some of the major trends that have emerged over the past decade. In particular, we compare several statements about what ecohydrology 'should be' with what published literature suggests it actually 'is' at the present time.