

Response to Reviewer 2

Comments: The authors have made major revisions to the manuscript, addressing most of the reviewers' comments. These improvements include a more thorough discussion of the study's limitations and the restructuring of sections as requested.

One aspect that remains unaddressed is the specificity of the title. In the initial submission, the study region was not included, but the authors appropriately added this in the revision. However, it was also recommended that the title explicitly reflect the model used for greater clarity. This recommendation was not addressed in their response. Since the study is based on a single model (GEOS-S2S) and its comparison with two reanalysis datasets, the phrase "The Role of" in the title may be too strong, as it suggests a more generalizable conclusion about land-atmosphere coupling in subseasonal prediction across the contiguous United States. Given that the study does not employ a multi-model assessment (which authors have already referred to in lines 305-39), a more precise wording would better reflect the study's scope and avoid potential overgeneralization. I still suggest refining the title, as this would enhance precision and better align it with the study's scope.

Overall, the authors have improved the clarity and depth of the manuscript. However, refining the title would further enhance its precision and ensure it accurately reflects the study's focus.

Response: Thank you for your comments. We explored options to expand the title to clarify that this study is based on a single modeling system. However, every attempt resulted in a title that felt overly long and cumbersome. Given that the abstract clearly states the use of a single modeling system, we believe the current title remains the most effective. Therefore, if the editor agrees, we would like to retain the title as it is.