Runoff and erosion processes in a forested river catchment

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Behaviors of rainwater in the forest soil layer and its associated erosion processes were explored in the forested Oikamanai River catchment, Hokkaido, by setting a 4CH soil moisture profiler (10 -40 cm depth) and five tensiometers (10 -50 cm depth) in the rainfall season of 2015. Water budget of the soil layer were estimated for some rainfall events in forest. As a result, a rainfall of total 58.0 mm in forest produced saturated throughflow in the tephra layer (Tarumae 1667 Ta-b) at 30 - 40 cm depth, which exhibited the high potentiality for eroding sand and mud grains.

Keywords: forest slope, tephra layer, saturated throughflow