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Running head: Tibetan plateau forest mortality

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Highlights:

1. A major episode of forest mortality was identified to occur in the 1796–1800 A.D. on the northern Tibetan Plateau.
2. The forest mortality was preceded by a two-decade growth reduction relating to climatic drought.
3. The forest mortality contributed to the increased intensity of dust storm in the region.
4. The approach we developed to identify forest mortality is applicable to other studies.

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