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Interactive comment on “On the potential vegetation feedbacks that enhance phosphorus availability – insights from a process-based model linking geological and ecological time scales” by C. Buendía et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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"On the potential vegetation feedbacks that enhance phosphorus availability - insights from a process-based model linking geological and ecological time scales" by Buendía et al. describes a complex model of phosphorus limitation, plant growth, and soil formation of global extent across ecological and geological timescales. As with any such process-based model, this model has many "moving parts" and a large body of mechanistic assumptions that - while not unjustified - are unlikely to hold in toto as scientific understanding progresses. An abler review has come before mine with specific questions about the model's sensitivity to several key assumptions and parameters,

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and I trust that the authors will address these to the best of their ability. With these reservations noted (which I emphasize apply to all such models), I applaud Buendia et al. for advancing the field and documenting their work so that it will be valuable not just for the ecological insights it provides, but also as a scaffolding for building future models as our understanding of the mechanistic assumptions that underlie it improve.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 19347, 2013.

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