

***Interactive comment on* “Centennial black carbon turnover observed in a Russian steppe soil” by K. Hammes et al.**

Anonymous Referee #3

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This work describes an interesting approach to study the stability of BC in natural soils. The approach makes use of soil samples taken 100 years apart and compares the contribution of BC in both samples. It is well written and I have only some points to improve the manuscript.

Page 662, line 19: References are needed for this statement. There are very different estimates for the turnover time(s) of BC in soils. Whereas some authors estimated millennia (as said here, but not supported by references), other estimates are much different. The authors should give all views present in the literature up to know. It has been shown several times now that BC is not recalcitrant in soils.

Page 663, line17: How can a steppe be created? Please explain.

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Page 671, line14: loss of BC due to erosion should also be included.

Page 672, line 6: Reference (Czimczik and Masiello, 2007) missing in reference list.

Conclusions: The concusions are very weak and disappointing. So we have another study that shows that BC is degraded in soils (as others have before). What do we learn from this study in particular, apart from the fact that further detailed studies are necessary?;

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 661, 2008.

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5, S218–S219, 2008

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