

Interactive comment on “Mercury concentrations and pools in four Sierra Nevada forest sites, and relationships to organic carbon and nitrogen” by D. Obrist et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This paper is original and includes new information about the mercury pools and concentrations in four Sierra Nevada site ecosystems. The authors have presented detailed information about different Hg concentrations in numerous ecosystem compartments, C and N relationships, and a discussion about the effects of forest fires. Thus, the article is of interest to a wider readership. The authors have discussed the results in great detail. They have compared their results extensively with the existing literature. The methods for sample analysis are valid and used in this kind of research.

The paper is well written and structured, and language is fluent. Some spelling mistakes still exist in the MS and careful check is recommended. I have listed my own

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correction remarks below after other comments.

The paper is suitable for the journal Biogeosciences with minor revisions.

Minor comments and concerns:

p. 1782, line 22: Explain Oi, Oe and Oa when you mention the abbreviations for the first time. At the moment, they are first explained in page 1787. Are the explanations needed in Fig. 1 and 2?

p. 1792, line 15: reference?

Fig. 1: The error bars do not show in post-fire near Truckee site. Are the error bars deviations of replicate samples? This should be stated in the text.

Fig. 3 and 4: There are two error bars that do not fit the picture. Please, specify the error amount in the Fig. or in the text.

Corrections needed:

p.1778, line 18: 92% => 0.92??

p. 1781, line 6: fata

p. 1784, line 27: undcomposed

p. 1786, line 1: Revise the chapter numbering.

p. 1786, line 28: to

p. 1787, line 11: then

p.1792, line 25: Truckeem

p. 1796, line 8: buring

Fig. 2: The gray-filled symbols are hard to distinguish from white symbols. The gray-filled symbols should be replaced by e.g. triangles.

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