

Interactive comment on “Free and protected soil organic carbon dynamics respond differently to abandonment of mountain grassland” by S. Meyer et al.

S. Meyer et al.

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We thank the anonymous referee for the interest in our study and the thoughtful comments presented for the open discussion.

We deduce two main points from your review that we feel should be responded to at this point, while minor suggestions and technical corrections will be implemented directly in a revised version of the manuscript.

1. You address the discrepancy between measurements of soil moisture and temperature over a one year-period and the results on C dynamics over longer time-period. This is a good remark. We agree that it is maybe not necessary to present results in a
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separate figure and we will consider your advice to include results in Table 1.

2. You agree that we capture the main characteristics in POM-C change with abandonment. However, you suggest that we should be more careful advocating these trends given the restrictions in the use of statistics. We are totally aware of the arising difficulties. In the revised version we will rework the abstract and discussion section with regard to this point and be even more careful when attributing differences in C dynamics to sites.

The authors

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