**Biogeosciences
Discussions**

Interactive
Comment

Interactive comment on "The Unified North American Soil Map and its implication on the soil organic carbon stock in North America" *by* S. Liu et al.

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General comments: It is understandable that the author's attempt in this paper is valuable for some ecological modelers. But the described targets of improvements for each dataset are not always clear for ordinary Biogeoscience readers. Because the reviews of previous related studies are poor and not well organized. The authors should clarify what have been lacking in previously developed soil data for ecological modelers as specific as possible. This statement is critically important for this type of works, because the usefulness is the only valuable feature of the data stets. I felt that another weakness of this paper was that examination of original datasets was not sufficient.

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Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

Readers needs to know how the developers selected the datasets and/or decided those priorities. The authors stated in the title that they showed the implication of this dataset development on the estimation of the soil organic carbon stock in North America. However, they made some comparisons with previously proposed datasets, but they did not express significant advantages of new data sets. Furthermore, this work was for the qualitative improvement of soil data only in North America. The regional importance can be understandable, but the authors should explain this importance and advantages of their approach in related to the global scale data organizations and modeling for globally distributed readers of Biogeoscience.

Technical comments: All maps are too small to identify all color differences and regends.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 9, 15175, 2012.