

## ***Interactive comment on “Effects of soil depth on the dynamics of selected soil properties among the highlands resources of Northeast Wollega, Ethiopia: are these sign of degradation?” by A. Adugna and A. Abegaz***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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The paper has attempted to address very important issues of land degradation. To improve the paper I have forwarded the following points.

Comment on the title: suggested below

Effects of land use types on selected soil properties dynamics in the highlands of nE wellega, ehtiopia

Abstract:

- Problem (research) is not included in the abstract section.

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- Better include the values (quantitative) of the soil parameters

Introduction

Ok.

2. Methodology

- Authors should include Land use map

2 section 2.2 Soil sampling

- The purpose of having 100 m x 100m tiles is not clear. Do you thing such an area is homogenous with in a given land use?

- The purpose of 100 m<sup>2</sup> with in each tiles and put one on the center and 3 on the arm. . . is not clear. (How and why?)

- Describe why you prefer to take samples from each sampling plot at five points (north, south, east. . .)? it is not clear the exact point of sampling using this directions because if you say north how far from the boarder of the plot?

n initial paragraph or section evaluating the overall quality of the discussion paper ("general comments"), followed by a section addressing individual scientific questions/issues ("specific comments"), and by a compact listing of purely technical corrections at the very end ("technical corrections": typing errors, etc.)

- 40 composite samples could be enough to represent such large area unless there is strong justification (20 for surface and 20 samples for subsurface)

- Exactly show using the photograph the plots and points of soil sampling as an example.

- Procedure of soil analysis should be described before you continue to the statistical analysis.

Results and discussion

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- In your title it says. . . .are these sign of degradation? This is not addressed properly and critically in this paper. The authors should redo it seriously (by presenting results and discussing the results).

Conclusion

- Make it brief and smart.

Fig 3: to me better to put it in table form. Confusing me as a reader.

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Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 2011, 2015.