

June 5, 2020

Reviewer #2

Thank you for your review of our paper: ESSD-2019-252. Below we paraphrase your comments in bold (for clarity), and provide our responses in regular text. We also recognize the challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic as well, and are most appreciative of your review.

This new dataset represents an important advancement in our assessment of natural areas and human impacts... Thank you for this contribution.

Thanks!

My only concern is how water is dealt with, that for some uses such as modeling ecological processes or species movement it would be valuable to at least produce a version of the dataset that has all water bodies masked out.

This is an important comment, and we appreciate your suggestion to provide a second version of the data with water bodies removed. We believe including reservoirs to include the modification of ecological processes through habitat loss and fragmentation of the artificial water bodies is an important advance. Yet, we recognize there can be situations where removing all waterbodies may be more suitable for a given problem. To address this, we also added a separate land/water mask dataset to the repository to allow users to readily remove reservoirs so as to treat all waterbodies in a similar fashion. We updated the manuscript to note this addition in the Data Availability section.

A minor point -- revise the sentence containing: "...over the pause of a deep breath".

Thank you -- we have revised to read more simply: "... over 12 hectares each minute."

Sincerely,

David M. Theobald, Ph.D., on behalf of co-authors