

Interactive comment on “Development of a standard database of reference sites for validating global burned area products” by Magí Franquesa et al.

David Roy

roydavi1@msu.edu

Received and published: 28 July 2020

Could you explain the long and short units methodology better please. Currently as written I cannot understand it. Figure 5 is helpful but it does not show the case where there are "no data" areas (for example, due to cloud and/or the Landsat SLC-off issue) in the image time series. Please clarify this in the paper text - paying particular attention to how the "no data" pixels are handled in the long unit derivation. I suspect that there are underlying assumptions that reduce the utility of the long unit results for validation. For example, it is well known that in many regions the burn signal dissipates rapidly and that clouds occur commonly and often at the time of Landsat or Sentinel-2 overpass.

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Thus, to my mind, the long unit may (i) fail to capture the true area burned over the time series, (ii) reduce the proportion of the image area that is mapped as burned and/or unburned. Please clarify and discuss.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-74>, 2020.

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