

Biogeosciences Discuss., referee comment RC3
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Comment on bg-2021-343

Anonymous Referee #3

Referee comment on "Pioneer biocrust communities prevent soil erosion in temperate forests after disturbances" by Corinna Gall et al., Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2021-343-RC3>, 2022

This is an interesting study examining the importance of biocrust species on soil erosion. The experiments were conducted in an appropriate manner. Unfortunately, it is difficult to understand the contents, especially in the results and discussion section. Detailed information and key messages are mixed. A solution would be that the section is divided into the results section and the discussion section.

L109 "newly-established": When were these skid trails established? Winter 2018/19?

L118 "a loess plateau": I cannot catch the meaning.

L347 "bare soil ROPs": The meaning is unclear.

Fig.2: I have not understood how to obtain the biocrust coverage. Did the authors remove plants except biocrust before taking photographs for biocrust?

Fig.3: Why did not data of vascular plants shown in October and February? I guess the difference between the total and biocrust in Fig.2 came from vascular plants; the differences were not zero in October and February.

Fig.5: Do the dots with gray color indicate?