Comment on essd-2022-332
Anonymous Referee #1

The manuscript presents the data set collected by the use or motion-activated camera traps with Chornobyl's Red Forest during a one-year period following massive wild fires. Authors also analyse the relationship between mammal richness and abundance, and estimated radiation levels (i.e. estimated dose rates). This is a very complete and valuable data set that will allow to examine many different ecological questions (e.g. rewilding processes, post-fire regeneration, ecological effects of radiation, disturbance of war related actions...) within a very special place.

My only suggestion refers to the Discussion of the results, and its comparison with a previous paper (Moller and Mousseau 2013). In my view, it would be worth to mention that the present study differs in many aspects to Moller and Mousseau (2013): different geographic scope (broader in the 2013 paper, which includes most of the Exclusion Zone, and not just the Red Forest), different contamination scenarios (2013 paper included areas with much lower radiation levels, which may affect the comparisons regarding the effects of radio-contamination on mammal distribution)...

I have also two minor suggestions:

- I would prefer to have Table 1 arranged following a phylogenetic order, rather than an alphabetic one.

- Figure 3. I suggest to remove "Demonstration of the lack of" from the legend.