Natural Hazards
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Discussions

Interactive comment on "Temporal variations and change of forest fire danger in Europe in 1960–2012" *by* A. Venäläinen et al.

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Dear authors:

I think the manuscript is very interesting and valuable, provides an innovative analysis and useful conclusions, and is suitable for publication in NHESS. I especially like the Introduction and Discussion sections.

You explain that one of your main objectives is investigate the significance of fire-weather indices in forest fires in two test sites (Greece and Spain) calculating a cross-correlation between burned area and mean FWI values. I miss a better explana-tion/clarification of two questions:

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Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

1) Why do you use only burned area and not "also" fire ignition or fire occurrence expressed as number of fires, number of fires larger than 100 ha or 500 ha, etc? Have you tried to check how the relationship of FWI with the number of fires is? In Discussion I like how you present examples about the relation between weather and area burned, but I miss also some reference about the relation to fire occurrence (over the total number or over the number of large fires)

2) Perhaps in material and methods could be included some short explanation about how the national burned area statistics in Greece and Spain are spatially georeferenced in fire reports (10x10 grids, provinces, municipalities...) and how burned areas are calculated or summarized into ERA grid cells (2.5° or 1.5°) in order to allow correlation with FWI data

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 1, 6291, 2013.