

General comments:

This paper presents a descriptive approach to characterize temporal trends in fire danger in Europe. I find very interesting this study because not many studies are devoted to analyzing this topic and could be useful in forest fires management not only for the present but also for the future.

I suggest to publish in NHESS after you attend these comments.

Specific comments:

Some corrections and suggestions:

Introduction:

6292- P25 and 6293- P5: It would be interesting to check not only temperature or precipitation records but also their combined effects (drought conditions) since they are much more related to fire danger. Can you provide any reference related to this aspect?

Material and methods:

6296- P5: You propose a regional division in Europe, in this sense you need to explain the division in four areas. What kind of criteria was used to define these regions?

6296- P5: If you consider all Europe, not only the southern areas, it would be better to extend the fire season to other months different to March/September or June/September (national level in Spain, page 6297- p20), because forest fires in winter are not rare in other areas. I do not understand why you have used different analysis periods: only three months in the case of Spain, but six months (spring to summer) for the rest of areas. It is not explained in the text.

Additionally, you have to remember that the FWI index is an accumulative index so you have to compute this index two months before the beginning of the considered period at least.

6296- P5: You have to justify the 10 and 30 FWI threshold; otherwise other values could be equally useful. As you comment, FWI values larger than 30 are common in the southern areas, so higher values could be more representative of extreme situations in Mediterranean areas.

At the same time, why have you used mean FWI instead of median or maximum, for example?

6297- P5: More detail is necessary to understand the statistical tests used in this study; not all readers are familiar with the Mann-Kendall test or the Sen's method.

6297- P10: Other studies have used fire size or number or fires to explain fire danger in Europe, why didn't you consider these types of variables?

6297- P10: You have to explain why only fire occurrence in Greece and Spain were selected to analyze their relation with fire danger. These countries can be good examples of Mediterranean areas but they are not representative of the other European ecosystems. Therefore, if you have analyzed temporal trends in all Europe you should explore these trends in the rest of the areas.

Results:

6299- P5: According to table 1, the Mann-Kendall test for Western Europe has a 90% confidence level, not 95% as you commented in the text.

6299- p17: Correct a similar error in Table 2: for Northern Europe the confidence level is 90%, not 95%.

Discussion:

It was expected a more detailed discussion regarding the Spain case, compared to the thorough comments on the Greece`s results.

Other corrections:

6304-p20: Change “to the fact that form Spain..” for “ to the fact that from Spain...”

6306-p5: Change “as long as the fie” for “as long as the fire”.

6306-p10: Change “are burned...” for “area burned”

Figure 7: Change scale in the graphics, FWI or Precipitacion (-10 values) are not correct.