

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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The topic discussed in this paper is really interesting and a challenge not only for the scientific community. Having said that the paper presents several critical issues that need to be fixed. Some of these can also mine the paper at its basis. I would like to thank the 3 referees and J. Martínez-Fernández for their reviews with different feedbacks, thus providing really a wide discussion. The authors provided detailed responses. However, at my eyes these are not enough to make this manuscript ready for publication.

Here I summarize only few critical issues:

- What about the effects of human activity of area burnt? I totally agree with the re-C2555

viewer #3. This is the most important critical issue of this paper. If I'm thinking at newspapers, in the last decades they reported that several fires were due to humans. The question is: are the results presented in this paper suitable? Are we looking at a suitable discussion? Or the results are also affected by the issues related to human-forest interactions? The authors highlighted in the conclusion (very short) that “the results are in harmony with observed patterns of climate change”. I partially agree, but what about fires due to humans?

- Why considering only Spain and Greece? The authors did not provide a satisfactory reply. The title should be different if only two countries are considered: “Temporal variations and change of forest fire danger in Spain and Greece in 1960-2012”.

- The sub-division of Europe is really rough and the given explanation related to climate is not satisfactory.

- The authors replied to an interesting issue raised by J. Martínez-Fernández about burned areas. They argued that a number of studies have shown that area burned is less sensitive to artifacts, if compared with the “number of forest fires”. Well, I suggest to make this reply stronger, referencing such studies.

Based on this feedback, and on the NHESS discussion, I think that the authors should spend more effort to improve the manuscript.

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