

Dear Pascal,

Thank you very much for your thorough and constructive feedback on our manuscript. We fully agree with your suggestion to split the paper into two parts, and we are confident that this will improve readability and allow us to better align with the expected structure of a scientific publication.

We have now split the original manuscript into two separate papers with the following titles:

- *The EAWS Matrix, a Look-up Table to Determine the Regional Avalanche Danger Level* (**Part A): Conceptual Development**
- *The EAWS Matrix, a Look-up Table to Determine the Regional Avalanche Danger Level* (**Part B): Operational Testing**

The current resubmission represents **Part A**, which focuses on the conceptual development of the EAWS Matrix and the analysis of the expert survey. It also includes references to key findings from the operational analysis (Part B) and related consistency studies (presented and published at ISSW 2024) to provide context and support the discussion. **Part B** will be submitted separately by Frank. Unfortunately, we were unable to finalize Part B this week, but we aim to submit it early next week. We hope it will be possible for you to handle both parts together once they are available.

Given the substantial restructuring of the manuscript (see latexdiff), we hope it is acceptable that we do not provide a detailed point-by-point response to your original editorial comments. Instead, we summarize below the key changes we have made in response to your suggestions:

- We provide a more structured overview of existing standards (e.g., the danger scale, conceptual model and matrix tools).
- We presented the definitions of the Matrix factors and provided a detailed description of the expert survey and its analysis.
- The revised manuscript references the two related studies: one on consistency presented at ISSW 2024 and one submitted as a companion paper to *NHESS*, which focuses on operational usage. Key findings from both are summarized in the discussion and conclusion of Part A.
- We revised and extended the sections discussing the relationship between the CMAH and the EAWS Matrix, aiming for greater clarity and conceptual alignment.
- We removed the section on the updated danger scale and the more speculative recommendations to keep the manuscript focused. The development of the revised danger scale is ongoing and may be presented in a separate publication at a later stage.

The data supporting both companion *NHESS* manuscripts will be made available on [EnviDat.org](https://envi.dat.org) once Part B has been submitted.

We hope the revised manuscript meets your expectations and addresses your feedback appropriately. Thank you again for your support and guidance throughout this process.

Best regards,
Karsten, Frank, and Christoph