

Interactive comment on “Quantifying soil and critical zone variability in a forested catchment through digital soil mapping” by M. Holleran et al.

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The paper is very well written. My comments related to the paper are: There is a lengthy explanation of properties in the results section that is not necessary since the focus of the paper is digital soil mapping. For example section 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 and 2.9 can be shorter. The paper is focused on a small catchment that is relatively homogenous, thus the use of iCPA and cLHC may not be necessary. The suggested techniques are more suitable for larger areas where sampling is costly in the light of greater expected variability. This is a good exercise The Leave one out cross validation (LOOCV) is not a real validation of predicted properties. It only assesses the error prediction. The predicted maps should have been evaluated against other independent measured data at

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least for limited soil properties. It would have been more useful, if the models developed for the small catchment would be used to up scale the property maps to the larger area.

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