

Interactive comment on “Soil microbial communities following bush removal in a Namibian savanna” by J. S. Buyer et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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General comments: Taking everything into account, I believe this work make a very good paper for SOIL journal and would provide a better understanding of how human interventions affect the structure and composition of soil microbial communities over time. I would like to commend the the way the authors gave a clear and concise background to their work in the introduction that even non-expert in this field can have a clear idea of what this study is about. There is, however, one or two modifications and details that would need to be added (in the specific comments below).

Specific comments:Page 1398, line 6-10. Provide more details on how you are going to analyse the soil properties. The reader will be interested to know what volume/mass of soil you used and how you did it.

Page 1398, line 24-25. On DNA extraction, how was it done? Please give details or
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refer the reader to a previous work where exactly the same method has been used.

Page 1398, line 27. Again give the name and sequences of the primers used. State exactly what part of the ribosomal DNA you amplified. Did you use the same primer pairs for all three taxa, Bacteria, Achaea and Fungi. Please clarify. What was the composition of the PCR mix, PCR conditions used.

Technical comments: Page 1399, line 2. Life technologies is now part of ThermoFisher Scientific.

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., 2, 1393, 2015.