

***Interactive comment on “Evaluation of digital soil mapping approaches with large sets of environmental covariates” by Madlene Nussbaum et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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This manuscript compares different spatially explicit modelling approaches for modelling numerous soil characteristics at three regions in Switzerland under agricultural or forested land. The authors aim to develop parsimonious models which can be used to map soil properties in the regions and as well as identifying best models for digital soil mapping. Whilst they have generally undertaken a rigorous approach to model development, I have concerns about their treatment of the different sampling periods used for model fit and evaluation which require clarification before this manuscript could be accepted for publication. Additionally, there are numerous language mistakes and some additional technical clarifications required to improve this manuscript. Lastly, there are many subjective statements made when comparing model performance

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which should be quantified to underscore the robustness of this work. See attachment for detailed comments.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.soil-discuss.net/soil-2017-14/soil-2017-14-RC2-supplement.pdf>

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Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2017-14>, 2017.

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