

Thank you for taking the time to address my comments.

I appreciate that you include some model statistics in your revisions. However, what the RMSE and bias values do not show is that, based on my assessment, the fuel stick moisture model does not have any predictive skill when it comes to simulating the observed wood block moisture values.

Using the data and scripts in the github repo, I was able to reproduce Figure 3a. I then calculated the Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency metric for each site individually. The values were all below zero, which indicates that the model does not do any better than a simple mean value. As well, I ran linear regressions between the simulated and observed data for each site individually and found that the p-values were all larger than 10%. Finally, I did a single regression of simulated and observed data across all sites and found that the  $R^2$  value for the simulated moisture is less than when you regress the observed data against the intra-site averages.

This analysis suggests to me that the model has no real skill in modelling the block moisture. So I would suggest that it is inappropriate to use the model output as the basis of the rest of your analysis.

If desired, I can provide the R-code I used to undertake this analysis.