2nd Review of „*Identifying Snow-Covered Areas from Unoccupied Aerial Systems (UAS) Visible Imagery and Lidar: A Comparison of Methods*“ (Moradi et al. 2025)

General Comments

Firstly, I would like to thank the authors for giving careful consideration to my comments and suggestions. The original manuscript has undergone extensive reworking and improvement. The most significant change is the removal of the cross-sensor and cross-site experiments. While these experiments were interesting, I agree with the authors that excluding effects related to the acquisition date is likely to be very challenging. That being said, it would be interesting to conduct future surveys of the study areas with different drones on the same day. In any case, the removal of these experiments has resulted in a much more concise study setup.

On the other hand, the authors have expanded their analysis to include additional lidar measurements. I think this is an interesting addition, particularly as it fits well within the scope of drone-based snow observations. The main conclusion of this new experiment is that lidar and optical approaches produce similar results in cases of relatively thick (and homogeneous) snow cover, but are sensitive to thresholds in cases of thin and patchy snow. I would expect this discrepancy to be mainly caused by uncertainty in the lidar snow depth instrument, as mentioned by the authors, or by mixed optical pixels (i.e. non-continuous snow cover). Could you therefore analyse which areas in the lidar maps (based on different thresholds) disagree with your optical snow cover maps? In Section 4.3, you suggest that a measurement uncertainty of 2 cm may be a reasonable threshold value. Why not use your dataset to determine an optimal threshold value for your lidar? I think this could be an interesting addition to your results.

Regarding data availability, the authors have confirmed that they will make the dataset publicly available once it has been approved for publication by their funding agency.

A minor complaint: in the submitted author's response, the final section of my comments (and author responses) is missing. I do not think this was intentional, but rather a formatting issue. As my comments mainly concerned technical corrections, I trust the author has revised them in the new manuscript.