We sincerely thank the anonymous referee for the positive and encouraging evaluation of our manuscript. We are grateful for the appreciation of the topic, methodology, model limitations, and the analysis of the two case studies. We also thank the referee for the constructive comments, which we fully agree with and will address in the revised manuscript as follows:

- **Figures:** We will revise all figures with particular attention to the visibility of map symbols. We will increase the size of markers, use stronger outlines and apply higher-contrast colours. For the standing trees, which are currently shown to scale according to their DBH, we will add a clearly indicated scaling factor to make them more visible while preserving the relative differences in tree size.

- **Relationship between height above ground and decay rate:** We agree that height above ground is a potentially relevant factor that is often associated with, but not identical to, direct ground contact. We will expand the discussion accordingly. Although studies addressing a direct relationship between height above ground and decay rate are scarce, distance to the ground may affect local moisture conditions and accessibility for microbial colonisation, particularly at low heights and where dense vegetation, such as shrubs, tall herbs or grasses, surrounds the dead stems. This has, for example, been discussed and tested by Perez et al. (2022), who included sample distance to ground as a potential predictor of deadwood decay. While they did not find a significant effect, they noted that this variable was measured only at the time of sampling, although it is temporally variable, and that multi-year averages may better represent the conditions experienced by a log throughout the decay process. This is particularly relevant for our context, as branches may break and the stem may settle closer to the ground over time, potentially increasing moisture availability and contact with decomposer communities and thereby accelerating decay.

- **Relationship between slope exposure and decay rate:** In the revised version, we will also add slope exposure as a relevant but complex site factor. As correctly pointed out by the referee, exposure can influence both temperature and moisture, which may have opposing effects on decay rates. South-facing slopes may favour decay through higher temperatures and longer biologically active periods. However, they may also lead to faster drying of stems, potentially constraining decomposition, whereas north-facing slopes may favour decay through higher humidity and more favourable conditions for fungal activity (Bardelli et al., 2018).

We thank the referee again for these helpful suggestions, which will improve both the clarity of the figures and the discussion of decay-related controls on sliding deadwood hazards. We will update the manuscript accordingly as soon as we receive the review from the second referee.

References

Bardelli, T., Ascher-Jenull, J., Burkia Stocker, E., Fornasier, F., Arfaioli, P., Fravolini, G., Alves Medeiros, L. R., Egli, M., Pietramellara, G., Insam, H., & Gómez-Brandón, M. (2018). Impact of slope exposure on chemical and microbiological properties of Norway spruce deadwood and underlying soil during early stages of decomposition in the Italian Alps. *Catena*, 167, 100–115. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.catena.2018.04.031

Perez, S. B., Fraterrigo, J. M., & Dalling, J. W. (2022). Interspecific wood trait variation predicts decreased carbon residence time in changing forests. Functional Ecology, 36, 674–685. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.13936