Metric	Action to Be Taken
R^2	Will be defined in Section 2.3.2 as the squared Pearson correlation between observed and predicted values, equivalent to $R^2 = 1 - RSS/TSS$. Will be capitalized consistently throughout (R^2).
Adjusted R^2	Equation will be added: $R^2adj = 1 - [(1 - R^2)(n - 1)]/(n - k - 1)$. A note will explain why values are identical to R^2 (large n = 203, small k = 4–8; difference < 0.005 when rounded to two decimals).
CCC	Will be defined in Section 2.3.2 as Lin's concordance correlation coefficient.
RMSE	Will be defined in Section 2.3.2 as root mean square error, used as the primary metric for predictive accuracy in cross-validation.
RMSEA	Will be defined in Section 2.4.3 as root mean square error of approximation, used exclusively for SEM model fit. An explicit statement will distinguish RMSE (prediction) from RMSEA (fit).
Bias	Will be defined as mean of (predicted − observed).
MAE	Will be defined as mean absolute error.
AIC/BIC/CFI/SRMR	Will be defined in Section 2.4.3 with threshold criteria and references (Hu & Bentler, 1999; Shi et al., 2019).
Pearson r	Will be explicitly named in Section 2.2.3 (correlation analysis) and Section 3.5 (residual correlations).

PDF Comment	Location	Correction to Be Made
"Reads like an oral presentation" — PDP plots	Section 3.3.5	Will be rephrased to "*The PDP for the HI model (Fig. 7) shows…*" (removing "PDP plots" redundancy)
"How does it indicate this?" — S_2 variable importance	Section 3.3.2	Mechanistic explanation will be added linking POXC/DOC to labile C pools and BD/CEC to physical/mineral properties
"Is this a LOWESS fit?" — Figure 9	Figure 9 caption	Will be clarified that the left panel shows OLS linear regression (not LOWESS); the right panel uses LOWESS for residuals
"If you use both RMSE and RMSEA it needs to be justified"	Sections 2.3.2 & 2.4.3	Explicit distinction will be added: RMSE = predictive accuracy; RMSEA = SEM model fit
"The hypotheses were not introduced as H1–H5"	Section 2.4.3	H1–H5 will be confirmed as introduced in Methods (lines 326–341); a clarifying list format will be added
"Which correlations? Spearman, Pearson…?"	Section 3.5	"Pearson residual correlations" will be specified
"Saturated nature of our model (df = 0)?"	Section 3.5	The "saturated" reference will be removed; replaced with an explanation that excellent fit reflects theoretical grounding, not causation
"Consider replacing with relative RMSE"	Table 2	RRMSE column and note will be added
"R^2 and Adjusted R^2 values are the same"	Table 2	A note will be added explaining rounding due to large n and small k
"R^2 often capitalized"	Throughout	Will be standardized to R^2
"Provide equation for R^2"	Section 2.3.2	R^2 equation and explanation of caret implementation will be added
"Further emphasized that SOC stability…"	Section 3.3.6	Will be rephrased as a complete sentence with correct citation format