

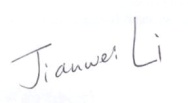
September 2, 2018

Dear Dr. Steindel,

Thank you kindly for the reviews. They were very helpful and have guided me in improving the quality of the paper. I responded to each of the comments in the following page.

I appreciate your efforts on this manuscript, and I hope that you will find out my revisions satisfactory.

Best regards,



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Your manuscript, JoVE58519R1 "Experimental Protocol for Sampling Soils in A Heterogeneous Research Plot," has been editorially reviewed and the following comments need to be addressed. Please track the changes to identify all of the manuscript edits. After revising the submission, please also upload a separate document that addresses each of the editorial comments individually with the revised manuscript.  
[Response] The track changes were identified in the revised manuscript and a separate response to editor was attached as well.

Your revision is due by **Sep 06, 2018**.  
  
To submit a revision, go to the [JoVE submission site](http://www.editorialmanager.com/jove) and log in as an author. You will find your submission under the heading "Submission Needing Revision".  
  
Best,  
  
Phillip Steindel, Ph.D.  
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**Editorial comments:**  
  
1. It is still difficult to understand the manuscript in places (see notes in text for examples); please proofread further.

[Response] The proofread was conducted by a colleague who is a native English speaker. Clarification and revision were made based on your notes. I hope the revision is satisfactory.

2. Generally, the soil sampling and analysis in step 2 could use more detail. How exactly are analyses done? How exactly should they be organized “based on the flag number and the associated horizontal and vertical distances”? How exactly will you minimize the pilot sampling’s influence on future sampling? References to previous work could be used here.

[Response] More details were added in step 2 and I hope your concerns were addressed adequately. One more required equipment (i.e., soil sieve) was added to the Material List.

3. In Figures 2 and 4, why are there multiple lines for each land use type-do they correspond to different replicates? This is unclear.

[Response] Yes, they are replicated plots for each land use. This was clarified in the legends of Figures 2 and 4.