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The Cryosphere Discussions

Interactive comment on "Seasonal controls on snow distribution and aerial ablation at the snow-patch and landscape scales, McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica" *by* J. W. Eveland et al.

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GENERAL RESPONSE TO REFEREE COMMENTS

The authors greatly appreciate the time and effort of both referees to review our submitted manuscript. The referees' comments were fair and provided input to help improve upon the manuscript. The referees were particularly helpful in pointing out areas which needed more citations and language within the manuscript that needed clarification.

A few comments were repeated throughout the reviews of both referees, and therefore deserve careful consideration. One particular comment that the authors reject is the lack of originality in the conclusion of snow patches generally forming in the same

locations each year in the Dry Valleys. This conclusion is specific to the Dry Valleys and has important implications for researchers studying biogeochemical cycling and microbial communities in the region. The other recurring comment is the suggestion to expand the study using wind modeling to investigate microtopographic influences. Two reasons prevent us from conducting such analyses: 1) limitations in available data will not allow us to investigate a fine enough scale to capture such microtopographic effects, and 2) expanding the scope of the paper in such a manner would make it much longer and too cumbersome to read.

See the attached PDF document for responses to individual comments. Responses by the authors are in bold.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
http://www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/6/C2836/2013/tcd-6-C2836-2013-supplement.pdf

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Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 6, 3823, 2012.