

## ***Interactive comment on “Presence of rapidly degrading permafrost plateaus in southcentral Alaska” by B. M. Jones et al.***

### **A. Kääb (Referee)**

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Received and published: 14 July 2016

I write a short review for this paper even if I am editor of it as it turned out impossible to find a 2nd referee due to holiday and fieldwork season. I have already given feedback to the paper before publication in TCD and the authors have adopted my recommendations.

The paper is an interesting and nicely integrative (ground measurements, ground surveys, geophysical surveys, remote sensing) study about a little investigated but important topic. The paper is well written. I ask the authors to consider the following remaining comments:

- some PF temperatures seem very little below zero, in the range of logger accuracy. Some more explicit discussion about the logger accuracy with respect to your temper-

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ature results could be helpful.

- You don't mention much the role of snow depths, timing and distribution playing a role in the spatial pattern and temporal evolution of your PF. At least theoretically, also changes in snow cover could be in parts behind the spatio-temporal variations you found. You collect and show snow depth data for your field sites, but seem not to discuss these, and the role of snow in general in the phenomena and changes studied. Is snow in your study area too shallow to play an important role? Was this always the case for the time periods and time scales considered?

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Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., doi:10.5194/tc-2016-91, 2016.

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