

## ***Interactive comment on “How unusual was 2015 in the 1984–2015 period of North Cascade Glacier Annual Mass Balance?” by Mauri S. Pelto***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

Received and published: 12 July 2017

This paper is simple in concept, how unusual is the annual mass balance of 2015 in the North Cascades compared to previous years and what might be the cause.

I found the paper hard to follow. The background, methods, data sources, and results were mixed together. It was difficult then to tease apart what is known from the literature compared to calculations made in this paper, and what methods were being used by the author. For the latter, I really had to hunt to figure out how some things were done.

This ambiguity was confounded by many topographical errors, awkward phrasing, and figures out of order. Some times statements were made without obvious supporting evidence and I tried to track the origin of the thought to either calculations or the referenced literature. Neither the figures nor the tables were well described in their captions/headings.

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In the end, I'm not sure what was what except that 2015 was a really negative mass balance year.

What is the purpose of figure 5, Mt. Baker? Do we need three photos of glaciers showing lots of ice exposed? I think one would do.

Attached are my extensive remarks on the manuscript.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/tc-2017-62/tc-2017-62-RC2-supplement.pdf>

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Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-2017-62>, 2017.

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