

Interactive comment on “The June 2013 flood in the Upper Danube basin, and comparisons with the 2002, 1954 and 1899 floods” by G. Blöschl et al.

Anonymous Referee #5

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The authors present a paper on the June 2013 flood in the Upper Danube basin and compare this flood with the 2002, 1954, and 1899 floods. The paper includes a description of the meteorological and hydrological characteristics of these flooding events and discusses the implications for hydrological research and flood risk management.

Overall the manuscript contains a lot of valuable information, is well written, and well organized. However, I feel there is room for some improvement. In the following, I have listed several recommendations to the authors.

1) In chapter 3 and Fig. 2, the authors explain atmospheric blocking and visualize it for

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the 1000 hPa level. Atmospheric blocking is most often analyzed at the 500 hPa level (e.g. blocking index of Tibaldi and Molteni (1990)). I recommend visualizing the GPH fields at the 500 hPa level.

2) In chapter 3, the authors mention the “Vb way” (p. 9537, row 8). I encourage the authors to provide either more detail for readers who are not familiar with cyclone tracks over Europe or to give cardinal directions. Even though of minor importance, I think that map(s) with wind vectors (derived from NCEP-NCAR Reanalysis) would help to visualize the moisture transportation paths described.

3) In chapter 4, the authors show precipitation totals for numerous different places. A reader who is not familiar with the region has to look up these places. This should not be necessary. I ask the authors to add an overview map illustrating the location of the Upper Danube basin in Europe and showing the places (climate stations) mentioned.

4) Whenever the authors refer to “long term means” or “means”, they should provide the time period of data used to calculate the mean values.

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