

Interactive comment on “Has spring snowpack declined in the Washington Cascades?” by P. Mote et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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General Comments: The authors argue that there has been a negative trend in spring snowpack in the Washington Cascades since at least the middle of last century. They present station data and model results to demonstrate the negative trend. I found the manuscript comprehensive, compelling and competently written. I rate this manuscript highly worthy of publication. My one minor critique is that in my opinion the paper could benefit from being shortened. There is only one major point to the paper of which I was amply convinced and I thought 14 figures was excessive. I would recommend to the authors to streamline the text and reduce the number of figures. Some figures I thought could be removed are Figures 4, 5, 7, and 10 without detracting from the quality of the paper or the compelling-ness of the argument. I would also recommend that the authors considerably shorten the Discussion and Conclusion section. I found

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the section contained many hand waving type arguments, which in the end contributed little to the reasonable interpretation of the results.

Technical Corrections: Page 2080 lines 22-24 - I found the language awkward it almost sounds as if the Cascades themselves were experiencing rapid altitude changes rather than the placement of the snow courses. Page 2081 line 4 - Again I found the language “snow courses be active” awkward. Page 2082 lines 22-24 - I did not understand why the snowiest years in the curves were sensitive to the start date when the dates overlap? Page 2091 lines 16-17 - I feel that a reference is appropriate here.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 4, 2073, 2007.

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