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Interactive comment on "Water tracing with environmental DNA in a high-Alpine catchment" *by* Elvira Mächler et al.

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Dear Reviewer 1,

Thank you for your constructive and supportive evaluation. We look forward to improving our manuscript along the lines you suggest. The identification of lacking definitions is particularly useful and will help to make our manuscript more clearly. We also welcome your suggestions to be more precise about the community analysis. We will clarify our intention to analyze the data on ZOTU level and not on taxonomically assigned ZOTUs, as the latter often reflects only a small part of the biodiversity due to lacking reference data. We are confident to revise our manuscript according to satisfy and clarify your major concerns.

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