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**To:** [Marcus Beck](#)  
**Subject:** Your Accepted Manuscript MS# 2019026R2  
**Date:** Thursday, August 8, 2019 7:22:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Beck-2019026-TE.docx](#)

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Dear Marcus,

I have completed the first round of editorial work on your manuscript, and it is now ready for final revision. Attached to this e-mail, you will find your edited manuscript. You can view the editing using the Track Changes option in MS Word. Changes that were matters of style, format, or minor grammatical issues may already have been accepted and no longer visible. More substantive changes have not been accepted and you will be able to consider them.

I recommend that you read through the document with 'Simple Markup' enabled rather than 'All Markup'. That way you will not be distracted by the details of the changes we made. If you find a passage that doesn't make sense to you, turn on 'All Markup' to see what we did and correct as needed. As you work, please accept any changes that we suggested unless you disagree with them. If you disagree with a suggested change, please reject the change and edit the bit in question, but don't 'accept' the change, so we can see what you suggest. Please do not edit for style, punctuation, etc., though, unless we have changed meaning.

Please address these general comments in addition to the detailed edits and comments within the manuscript.

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1. I found your use of the term landscape model to be very confusing. To me, that term implies you are predicting landscape attributes. Instead you have developed an empirical model that predicts biological condition from land use attributes. I edited to simplify your terminology.
  2. I thought your use of the term expected was also confusing and what you meant by it was not readily apparent. As I understand it, you use the quantile random forest model to estimate prediction intervals (not confidence intervals as you point out), which you use to establish the lower and upper bounds of the CSCI scores likely to occur at a site given its land use setting. As such, why not just call these estimates prediction intervals, which is easy to understand? By translating this straightforward idea into bioassessment jargon, you make the paper harder to understand and you confuse the reader.
  3. In general, I had a tough time getting through this manuscript (as did the AE and reviewers) even though I had read a version of it before. The main reason was wordiness and imprecise language. I edited to simplify your text in many places. Note that I also converted many of your passive sentences to active voice, which is much easier to understand and the style we prefer in Freshwater Science. I urge you to carefully consider where else in the manuscript you could improve readability and clarity by switching to active voice. The whole manuscript does not have to be in active voice, but much of it should be. Strive for balance. Most importantly strive for clarity and brevity. If you write like you talk, you will almost automatically write in active voice.

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Please take extra care to make sure that you read each comment. In some cases, they are intended to draw your attention to a suggested change that we think might alter your intended meaning. In other cases, comments are intended as questions, requests for clarification, or dialog. If a comment calls for changes in the text, please make the change or explain why you have not made the change in your covering letter. If the comment calls for a response to a question, etc., please answer the question in your covering letter. Please carefully cross check in-text references with the literature cited section.

I would like to publish your paper in the December issue (38/4) (and online soon after receipt of the final, corrected manuscript). However, the deadline for forwarding final manuscripts for that issue to production is mid-August, and I recognize you may not be able to revise this quickly. Please let me know if you think you can turn around your

final revision by August 15 and contact me directly if you have any questions about my edits. Please make sure that you return the revised manuscript and figures in final form with no pending changes. To submit your revised manuscript, logon to your Editorial Manager homepage and click on the link to manuscripts in need of revision. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me as often as you like. I look forward to receiving the revision, and I thank you for submitting your work to Freshwater Science.

Sincerely,

Charles Hawkins  
Editor

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In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. (Use the following URL: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/fws/login.asp?a=r>). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.