**Team 8: Arsh Sharma, Ramdeep Kailay, Karmanpreet Saini, Aaron Kwai, Muhammed Atasoy**

**Summary of Feedback Received:**

The main themes in the feedback we received centered around improving clarity through verb tense consistency, addressing grammatical errors, and enhancing interpretability. These suggestions were aimed at making the manuscript more precise and accessible to the reader.

Additionally, feedback for the results section highlighted the need to briefly clarify what each result suggests to the audience. Another specific point of feedback was to include a mention of supplemental figure 1 within the results section, as it was originally referenced only in the discussion section.

One specific point of feedback for our figures was to adjust the y-axes of the diversity box plots so that the scales are consistent between forest and wetland soil samples.

One specific comment in our discussion was: "Doesn’t lower evenness indicate a few species dominate, which would mean greater abundance of unique species?" While this comment suggested a reconsideration of our explanation, we ultimately decided it was not necessary to make changes as our interpretation aligns with the results.

**Feedback Implemented**

We implemented the majority of the feedback received:

Clarifying verb tenses and grammar: We revised the manuscript for consistent verb tenses and corrected any grammatical mistakes to ensure clarity throughout.

Enhancing results interpretation: For the results section, we added concise explanations of what each result suggests, ensuring the findings are more interpretable.

Supplemental figure integration: We incorporated the supplemental figure into the results section, aligning it with the relevant findings instead of only discussing it in the discussion section.

Y-axes in Figure 2: the y-axis for Faith’s PD boxplots for both forest and wetland soil samples now starts at 8, while the y-axis for Shannon’s Evenness boxplots for both soil types now starts at 3.

**Feedback Not Implemented**

We opted not to make changes in response to the specific comment regarding lower evenness and its implications for diversity. Based on our results, lower evenness indicates dominance by a few specific taxa, which likely reduces the total number of taxa, thereby decreasing overall diversity. This interpretation is consistent with our findings, and therefore, no revisions were made to this portion of the discussion.