

Referee #2

Dear Editors,

The authors have addressed the challenges of hydrological monitoring in these environments with clarity, rigor, and creativity. I would like to commend the authors for their thoughtful and detailed responses to reviewer comments and their willingness to substantially revise the manuscript. The improvements in clarity, methodological detail, and contextual discussion are evident throughout, and the new appendices addressing transferability and uncertainty are particularly appreciated.

While the manuscript is now in excellent shape, I would like to offer a few minor suggestions that, if addressed, could further strengthen the work:

1. Quantifying Benefits of Image-Based Quality Control

The manuscript describes the important role of image classification in quality control of sensor data. However, it would be helpful to briefly quantify the impact—such as an approximate number or percentage of erroneous data points identified and removed thanks to this approach. This would concretely demonstrate the practical utility of the method.

2. Discussion of Model Transferability Conditions

The new appendix on transferability is a strong addition. To further aid practitioners, please consider explicitly summarizing in the main text the primary conditions and limitations for successfully transferring the method to other sites, such as the need for consistent camera positioning, presence of a staff plate, or minimum number of labeled images.

3. Objective Thresholding for Classification Confidence

The qualitative approach to determining classification confidence is reasonable and well-explained. For completeness, a brief mention of potential objective, quantitative methods (e.g., maximizing a statistical metric like Youden's J index) could be included in the Discussion, to guide future work in this area.

4. Ongoing Operational Considerations

While the manuscript emphasizes the low-cost nature of the method, it would be valuable to briefly acknowledge in the conclusion or discussion the practical challenges and ongoing costs associated with long-term field camera maintenance, especially in harsh or remote environments. This would help set realistic expectations for practitioners considering deployment at scale.

In closing, I wish to thank the authors for their thoughtful revisions and for their clear commitment to advancing hydrological science. I am confident that the manuscript, with these final minor improvements, will be a significant and widely appreciated contribution to the literature.

Sincerely,

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