



Leveraging Low -Cost Remote  
Environmental Monitors to Measure  
Stream Health in the Arid Southwest

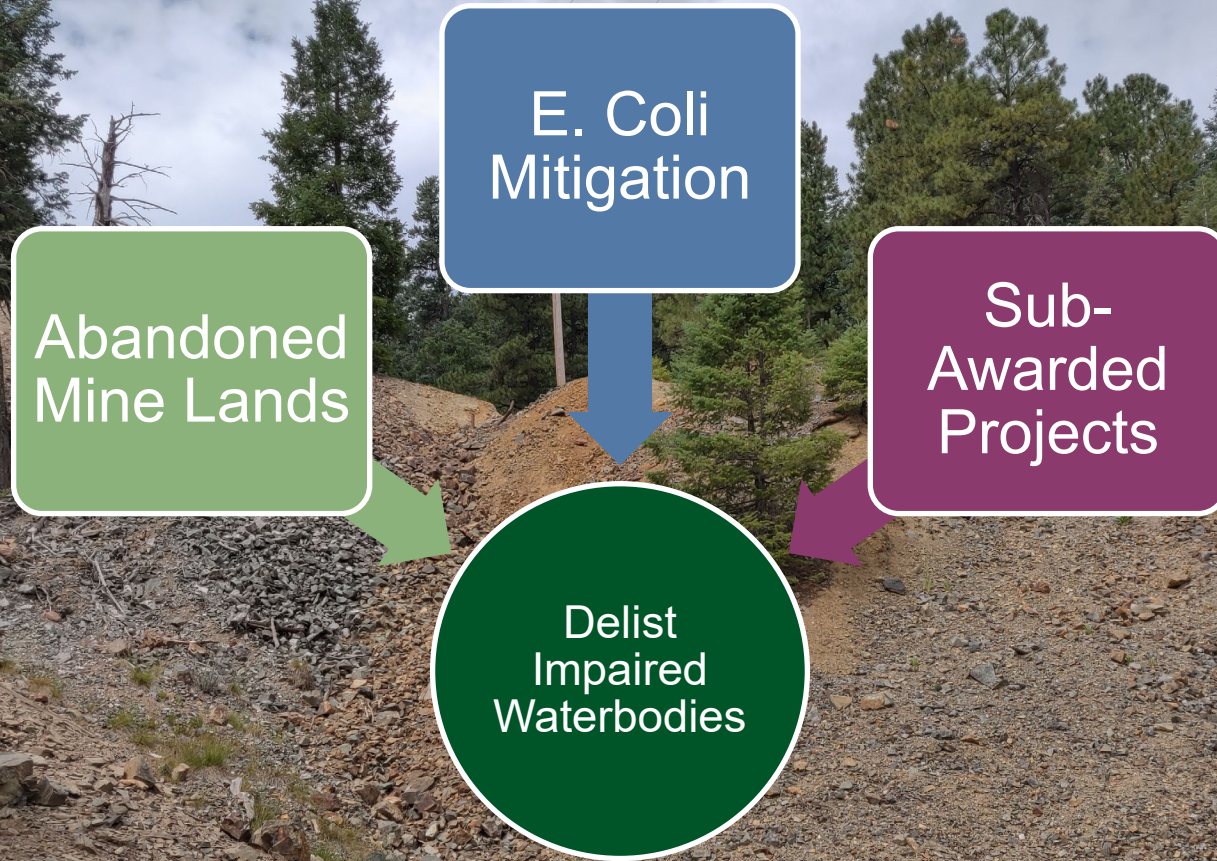
Jason Elliott, R.G.  
Senior Hydrogeologist  
June 2025

# Surface Water Quality Sampling





# Watershed Improvement Unit





# San Pedro



1.75 miles



# Storm Flows transport E. Coli



E.coli  
Suspended Sediment



# Sampling Methods – First Flush





# Room for Improvement

Average retrieval run requires 1.2 hours/site/employee.

Ratio of hit/miss = 48% (n = 32/67)

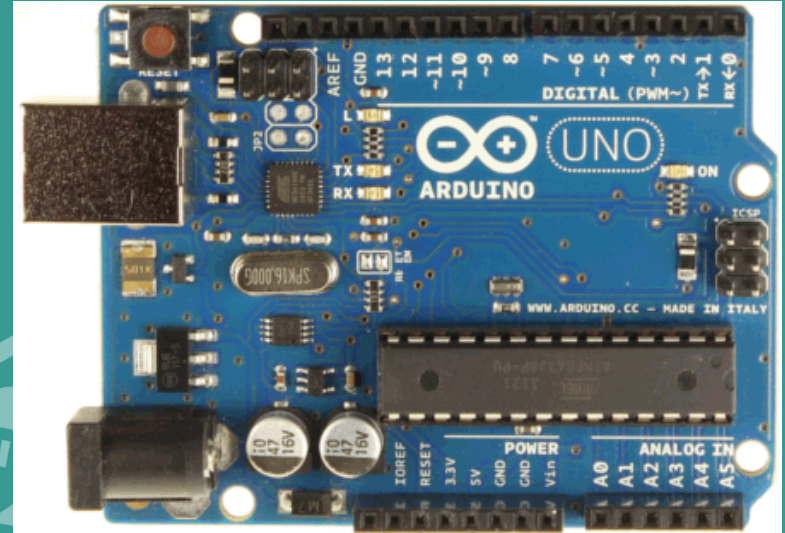
Conservative Estimate of Waste:  $\sim 1.2 \times 2 \times 35 = 84$  hours

Unnecessary Risks and wear/tear (snakes, heat, equipment)



## Hardware and Software

- creative commons
- open source hardware and software
- expanded without licensing fees.





# Open Source

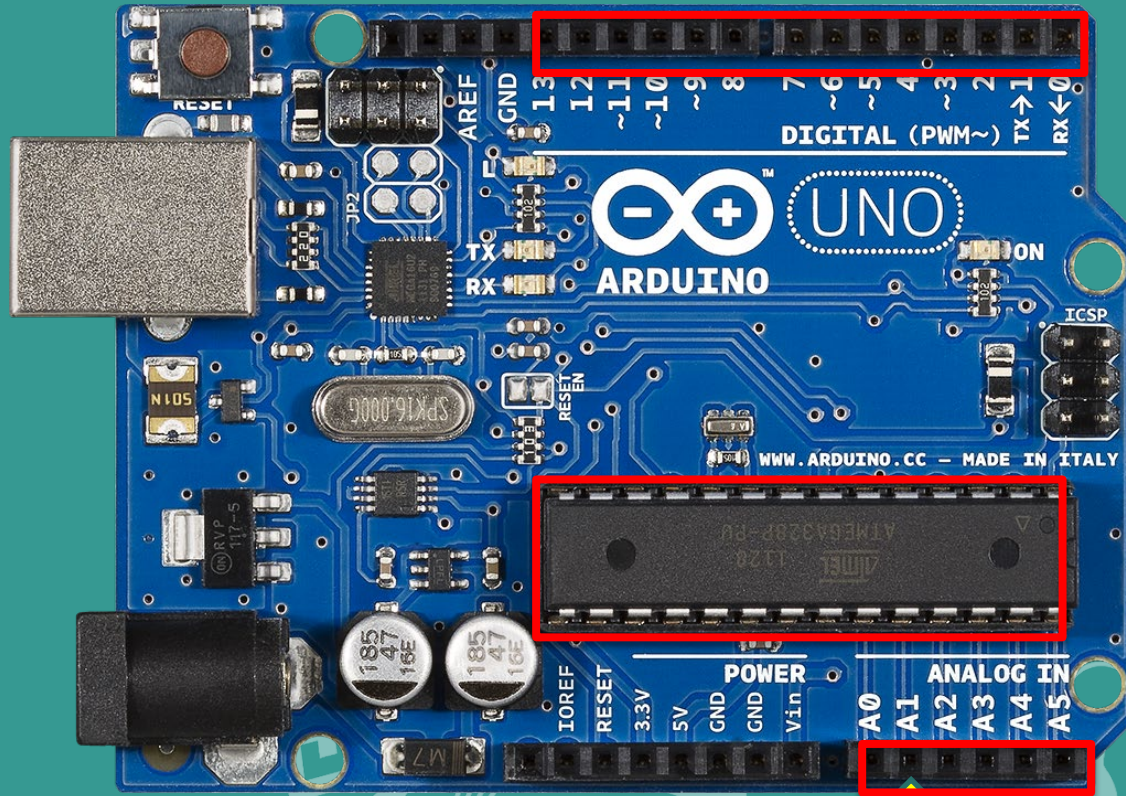


Open source is a development model that promotes universal access and redistribution to a product's design or blueprint, including subsequent improvements by others.

It gives people the freedom to share knowledge while encouraging commerce through open exchange of designs and ideas.

*Surrogate for customer support.*

# Arduino Function



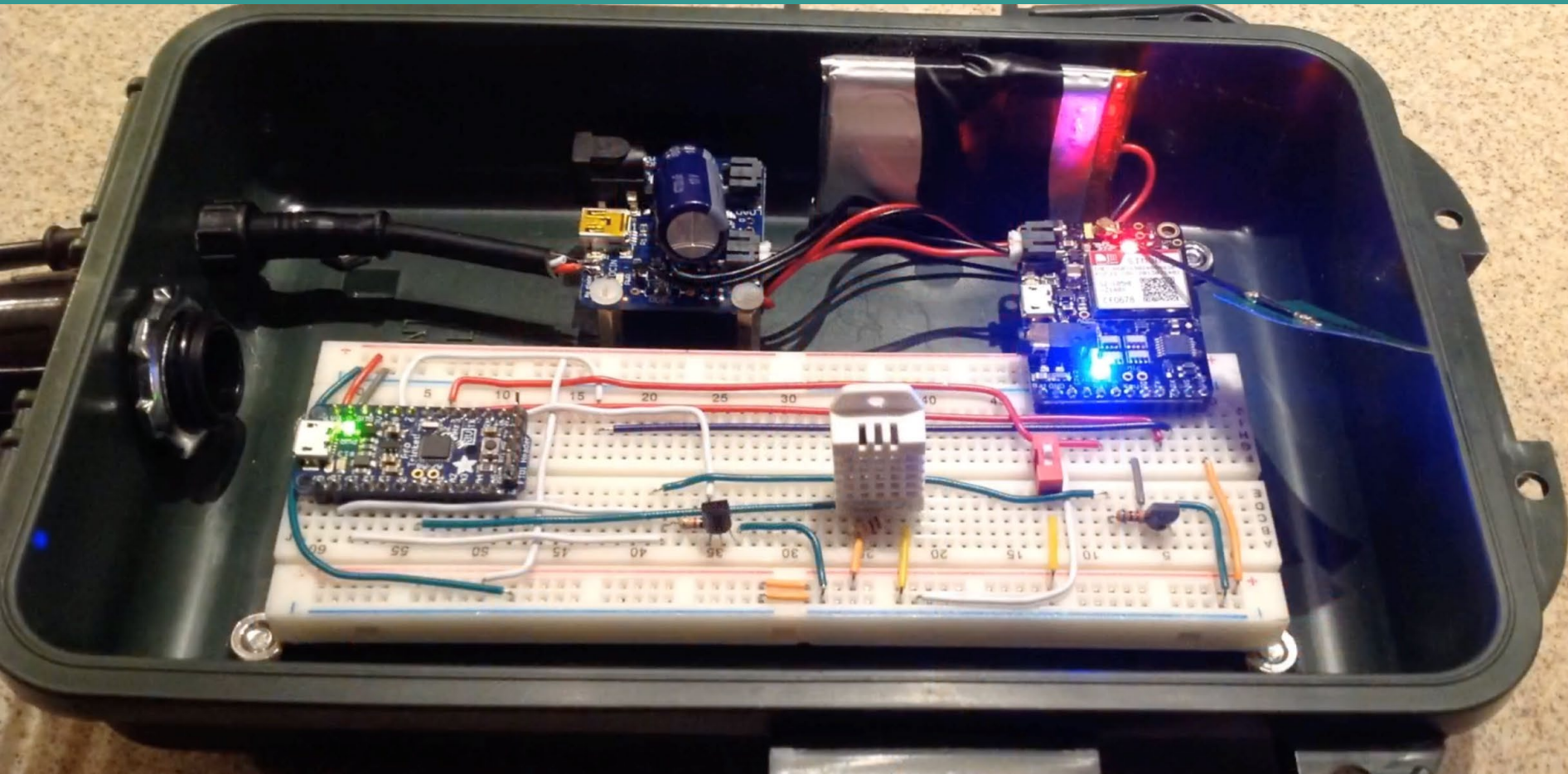
3. ... to engage motors, servos, LCD displays, cell phones, servers, etc.

2. Program the microcontroller to record and respond to sensors

1. Attach environmental sensors to socket headers



# Prototype Cellular REM



# REM Development

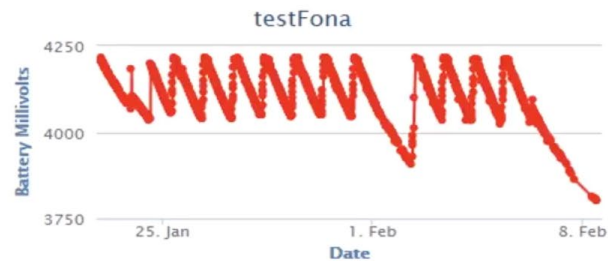
## testFona

Channel ID: **62784**  
Author: **Biod101**  
Access: Public

Registering battery voltage to the web using a solar powered ProTrinket and FONA breakout. Cycling shows battery charging in the morning, and then discharging over the course of the day.

[Private View](#)[Public View](#)[Channel Settings](#)[API Keys](#)[Data Import / Export](#)[+ Add Visualizations](#)[Data Export](#)[MATLAB Analysis](#)

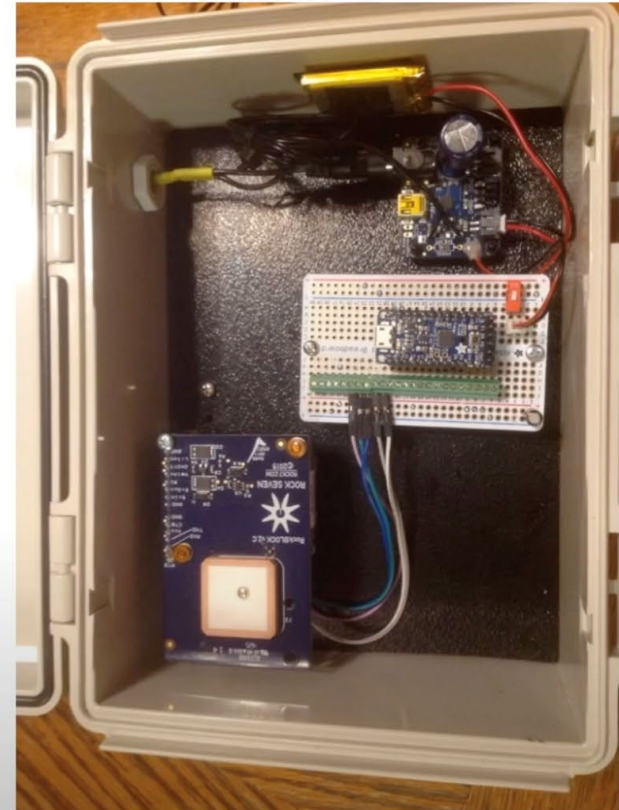
### Field 1 Chart





# Prototype Satellite REM

July 3, 2017



# REM Documentation

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

## Remote Environmental Monitoring

Background on New Operational Standards

Hans Huth  
11-19-2021



### Contents

Background.....	4
Problem Statement.....	5
Countermeasure .....	6
Iridium-Satellite Stage Monitoring.....	7
Hardware.....	7
Satellite Modem.....	7
Microcontroller .....	7
Power .....	10
Ultrasonic Sensor.....	11
Pinouts and Wiring .....	12
Enclosure with Hardened Circuit.....	18
Software.....	22
Baseline Code and Modifications .....	22
Server Configuration Prior to Deployment: .....	24
Order of Operations for Bench/Field Telemetry Confirmation .....	28
Iridium-Satellite Flow Detection .....	31
Hardware.....	31
Microcontroller Pins .....	31
Flow Detection Sensors .....	35
Software.....	41
Coding Sensors .....	41
Wiring Sensors.....	42
Why is Wiring Considered Software? .....	46
4G-Cellular Flow detection .....	48
Hardware.....	48
Software.....	48
4G-Cellular Ultrasonic Measurement.....	49
Hardware.....	49
Software.....	49
Troubleshooting.....	50
Andon Catalog.....	50
Countermeasures.....	51

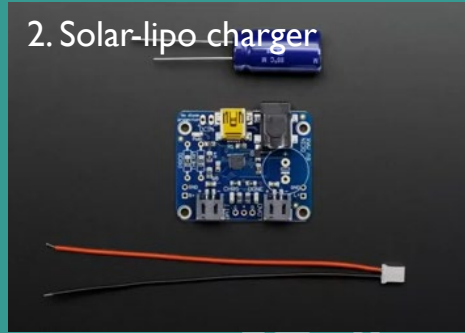


# Components

1. Lithium ion battery



2. Solar-lipo charger



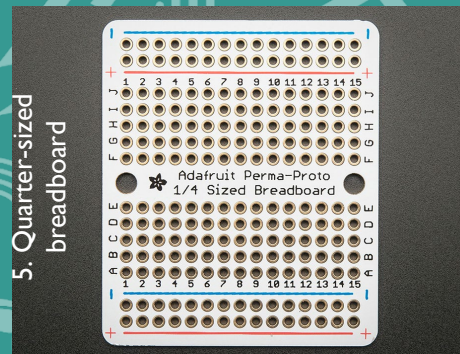
3. RockBLOCK 9603 satellite modem



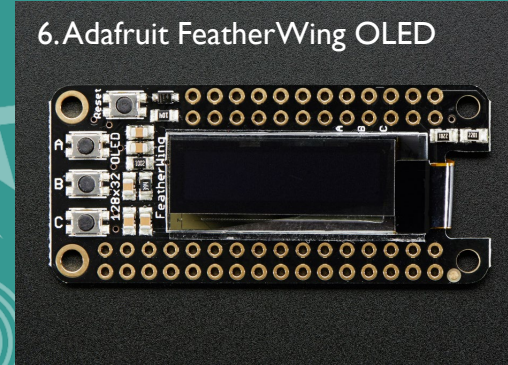
4. Solar panel (outside of box)



5. Quarter-sized breadboard

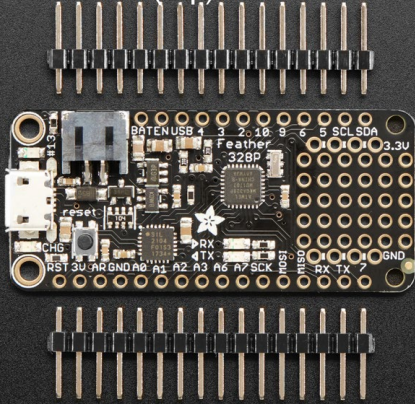


6. Adafruit FeatherWing OLED



# Components, continued

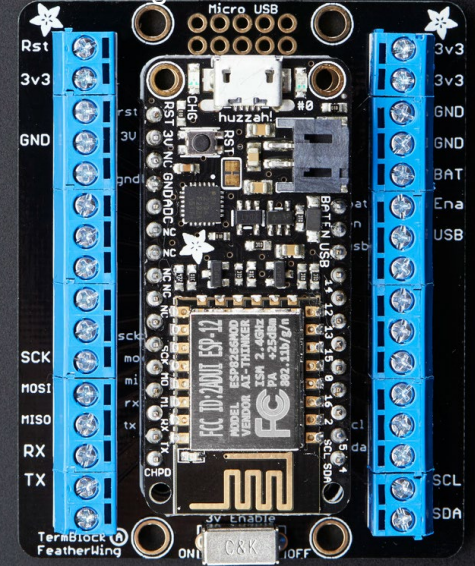
## 7. Microcontroller (top)



Microcontroller (bottom)  
Adafruit Feather 328P



## 8. Terminal Block Breakout FeatherWing for all Feathers





# Finished product (inside)

2. Solar lipo charger

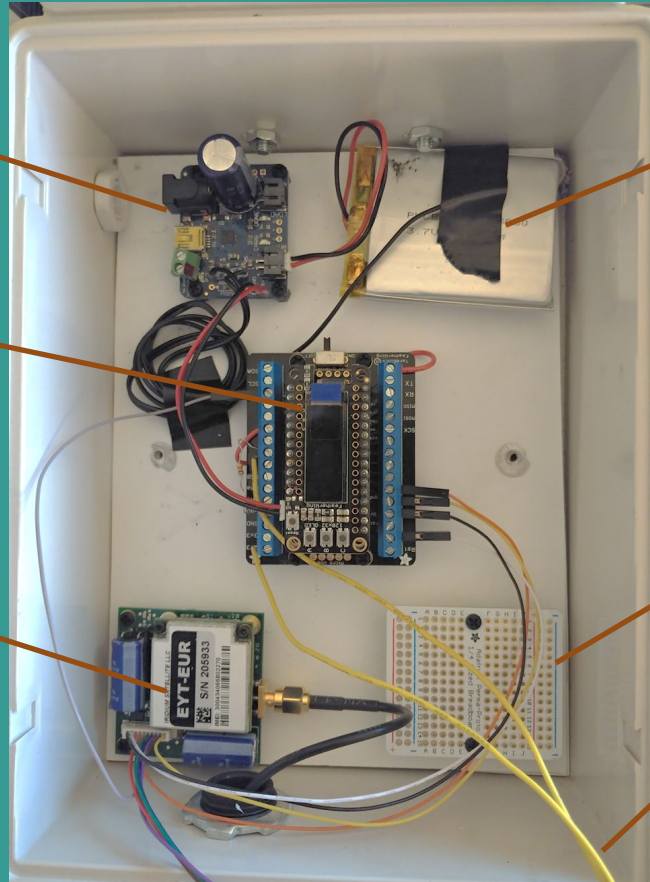
1. Lithium ion battery

Stacked:  
6. OLED (top)  
7. Microcontroller (middle)  
8. Terminal block (bottom)

3. RockBLOCK satellite modem

5. Quarter-sized breadboard

Wires to float sensor  
(not listed in components)

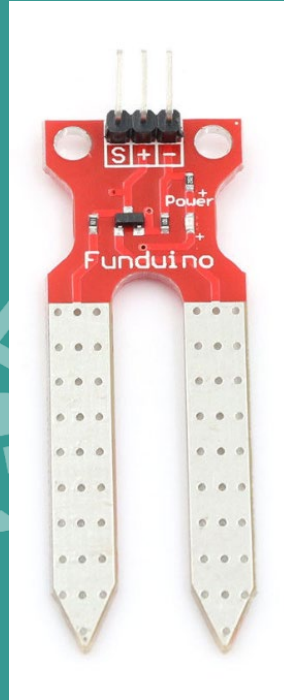


# Sensors

Ultrasonic



Moisture



Float





# Finished product (outside)



Photo by Sean Keane

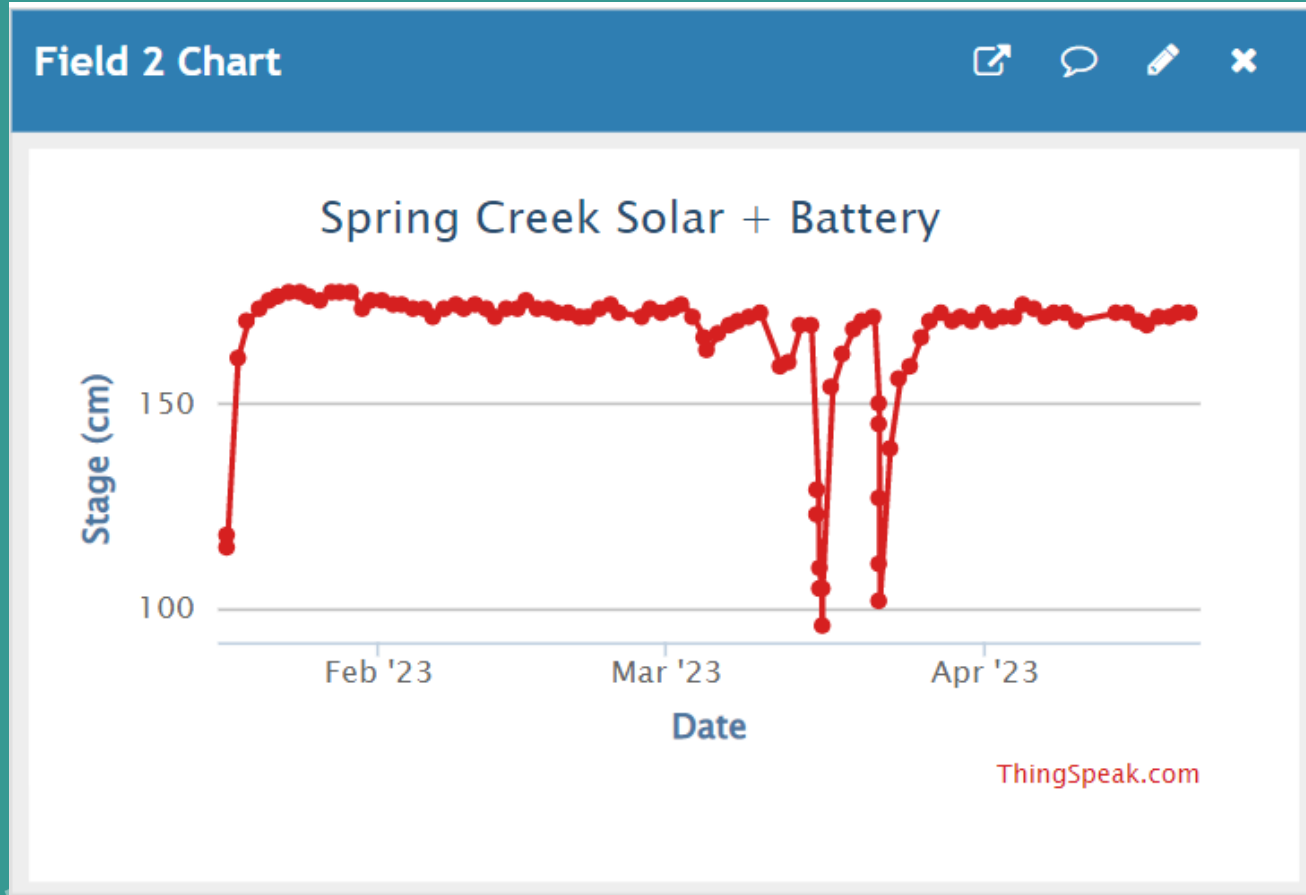
4. Solar Panel

# Communication





# ThingSpeak Output



# REM Support Program





# Commercial Comparison



- Box, battery, electronics, program, antennae
- Transmits text message alarms to a text enable phone or “pager”
- Communicates with a “modem-equipped” PC for remote data retrieval/ control
- Remote control of sampler functions using a terminal program
- Powered by and communicates with the autosampler
- Customer support

Item	Qty	Description (Part Number)	Unit Price	Ext. Price
1)	1	SPA 1563. GSM Cell Phone Modem Package. This cell phone modem accepts SIM cards purchased by the customer from their preferred provider. Connects to 4100/4200 flow meters & 6712 samplers. Text message output capable for 6712 samplers. Primarily for use in overseas and select U.S. markets. (P/N 605314563)	\$2,266.00	\$2,266.00
		Freight		\$28.00
		Total		\$2,294.00

Delivery: 3-4 weeks receipt of purchase order. Please note that the above total does not include any applicable taxes.

# Commercial Options



## CR1000

Measurement and Control Datalogger

CR1000 Measurement and Control System / CR1000



- Robust Construction
- Data acquisition and peripheral control
- Multiple communication peripherals (separate)
- Customer support
- Proprietary Sensors with code examples

CR1000-ST-SW-NC - Measurement and Control Datalogger (1) **\$1495.00**

LOGGERNET-SDK-D - LoggerNet Software Development Kit (1) \$555.00

17324 - CR1000WP Insulated Terminal Cover (1) \$25.00

CR1000KD - Keyboard/Display for the CR1000, CR800, or CR6 (1) \$280.00



# Commercial Options

## Equipment

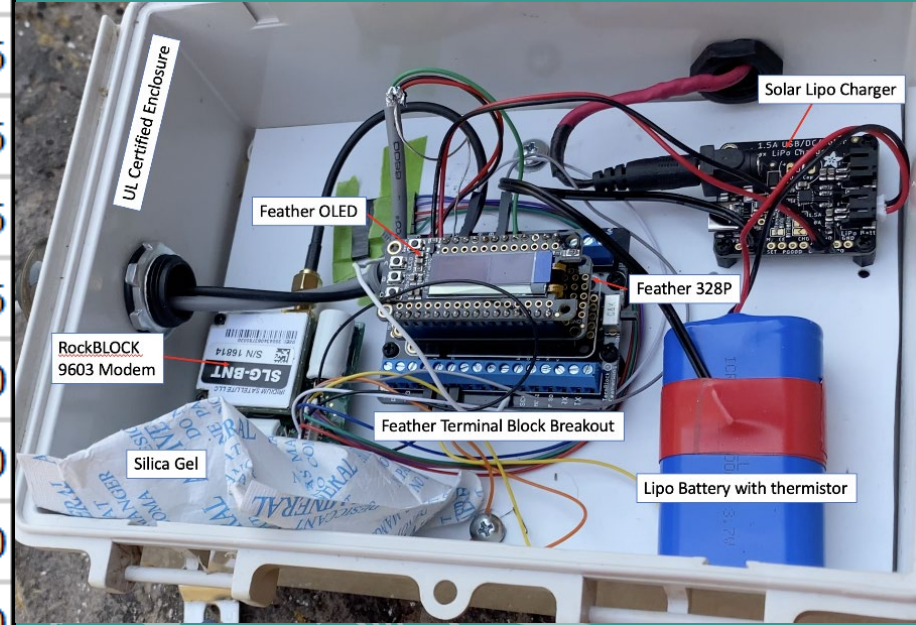
Line	Product Description	Part Number	Unit of Sale	Qty.	Unit List Price	Total List Price	Disc.	Customer Total Price
1.	Aqua TROLL 600, Vented 0-9m	0074080	Each	1	\$4,695.00	\$4,695.00	18.00%	\$3,849.90
2.	Aqua TROLL 500/600 Wiper	0063500	Each	1	\$1,195.00	\$1,195.00	18.00%	\$979.90
3.	Aqua TROLL Temperature/Conductivity Sensor	0063460	Each	1	\$895.00	\$895.00	18.00%	\$733.90
4.	Aqua TROLL pH/ORP Sensor	0063470	Each	1	\$795.00	\$795.00	18.00%	\$651.90
5.	Aqua TROLL Turbidity Sensor	0063480	Each	1	\$1,095.00	\$1,095.00	18.00%	\$897.90
6.	Aqua TROLL RDO Sensor (includes RDO-X Cap)	0063450	Each	1	\$1,095.00	\$1,095.00	18.00%	\$897.90
7.	Rugged Twist-Lock Cable, Vented, TPU, No Reel, Twist-Lock,	0052000-POLY-NONE-TWISTLO CK-	10m	1	\$272.50	\$272.50	18.00%	\$223.45
8.	TROLL Com Bundle USB Direct Connect (Programming Cable)	0052510	Each	1	\$795.00	\$795.00	18.00%	\$651.90
9.	TROLL Link 201 Telemetry System - Iridium Satellite (Isi Data Center Link)	0058140	Each	1	\$2,295.00	\$2,295.00	18.00%	\$1,881.90
10.	External Battery Kit for Use w/ Optional Solar Panels. Includes 14 Ah Battery. Combine w/ Existing System for 21 Ah Capacity.	0058950	Each	1	\$595.00	\$595.00	18.00%	\$487.90
11.	Optional 20-W Solar Panel (Requires Solar Panel Mounting Bracket)	1016480	Each	1	\$365.00	\$365.00	18.00%	\$299.30
12.	Solar Panel Mounting Bracket for 10W/20W Panel	0058290	Each	1	\$70.00	\$70.00	18.00%	\$57.40
13.	Data Service Activation Fee Per Unit	0098350	Each	1	\$35.00	\$35.00	18.00%	\$28.70
14.	Data Service 201 Monthly Fee Per Unit	0098340	Each	12	\$53.00	\$636.00	18.00%	\$521.52
15.	HydroVu Professional Prepaid Code (Months)	0102510	Each	12	\$20.00	\$240.00	18.00%	\$196.80
					<b>Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$12,360.27</b>	

**\$4,125.42**



# Satellite REM Comparison

Item	Cost/ea
Feather 238P	\$12.50
Terminal Block	\$14.95
OLED screen	\$14.95
Rock Block 9603 Modem	\$299.95
Rock Block Connector	\$4.95
Enclosures	\$20.00
Solar Panels	\$30.00
LiPo Solar Charge Controllers	\$15.00
ultra sonic sensor	\$110.00
Total	\$522.30





# Spring Creek



# Spring Creek

12.Dec.2021 05:51 UTC-7

>|<

## Solar data for the selected location

Dawn:	06:57:48
Sunrise:	07:25:28
Culmination:	12:21:35
Sunset:	17:17:36
Dusk:	17:45:16
Daylight.duration:	9h52m8s
Distance.[km]:	147.285.431
Altitude:	-18.95°
Azimuth:	105.51°
Shadow.length.[m]:	n/a
at.an.object.level.[m]:	<input type="text" value="10"/>

## Geodata for the selected location

## More solar data

Mar.Equinox:	20.03.2021 02:37 MST
Jun.Solstice:	20.06.2021 20:31 MST
Sep.Equinox:	22.09.2021 12:21 MST
Dec.Solstice:	21.12.2021 08:59 MST
Declination:	-23.114°
RightAscension:	17h 19m 35.35s

Print

Contact

Help & API

More for Moon|Planets|Satellites

Donate

T

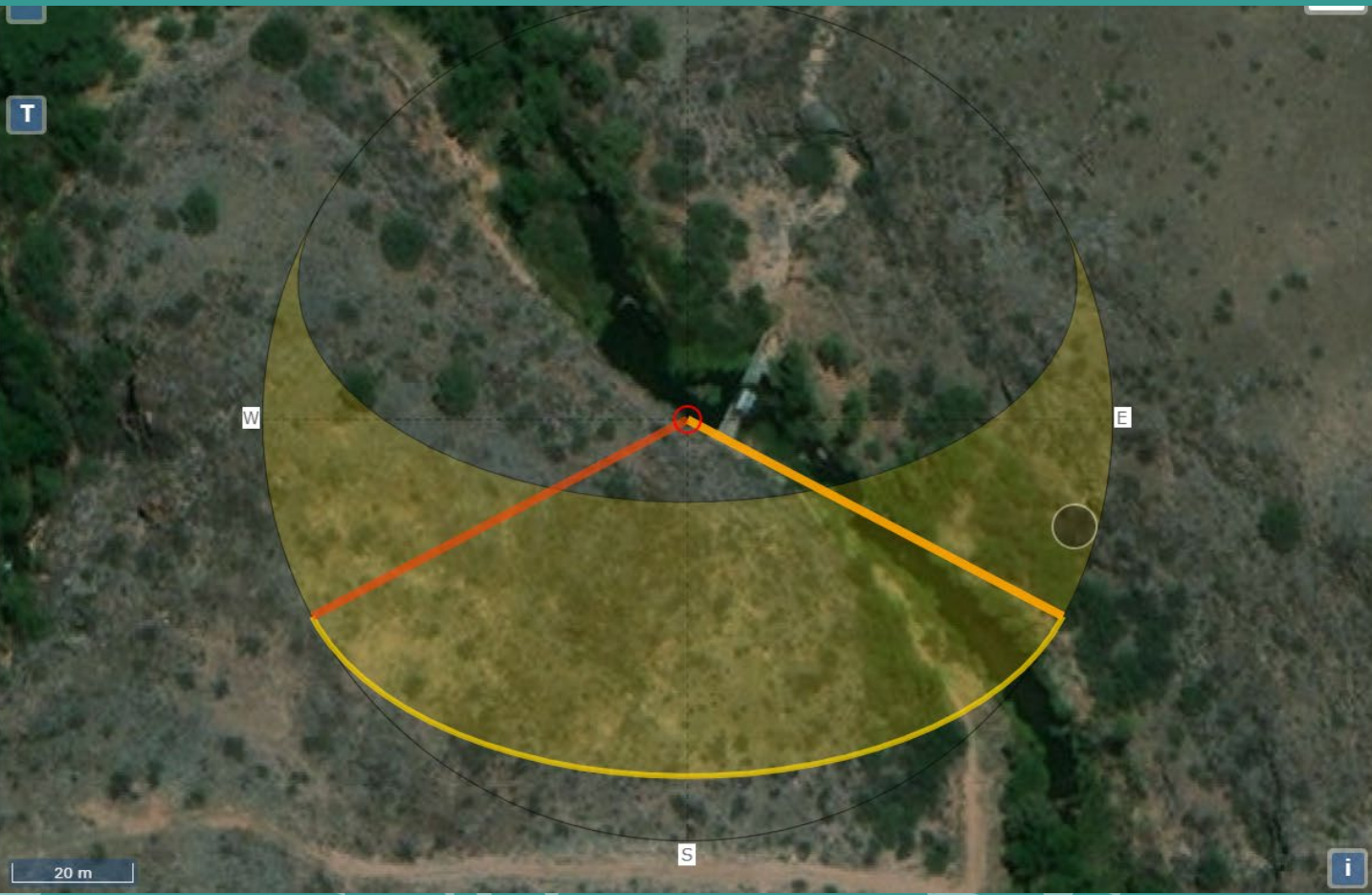
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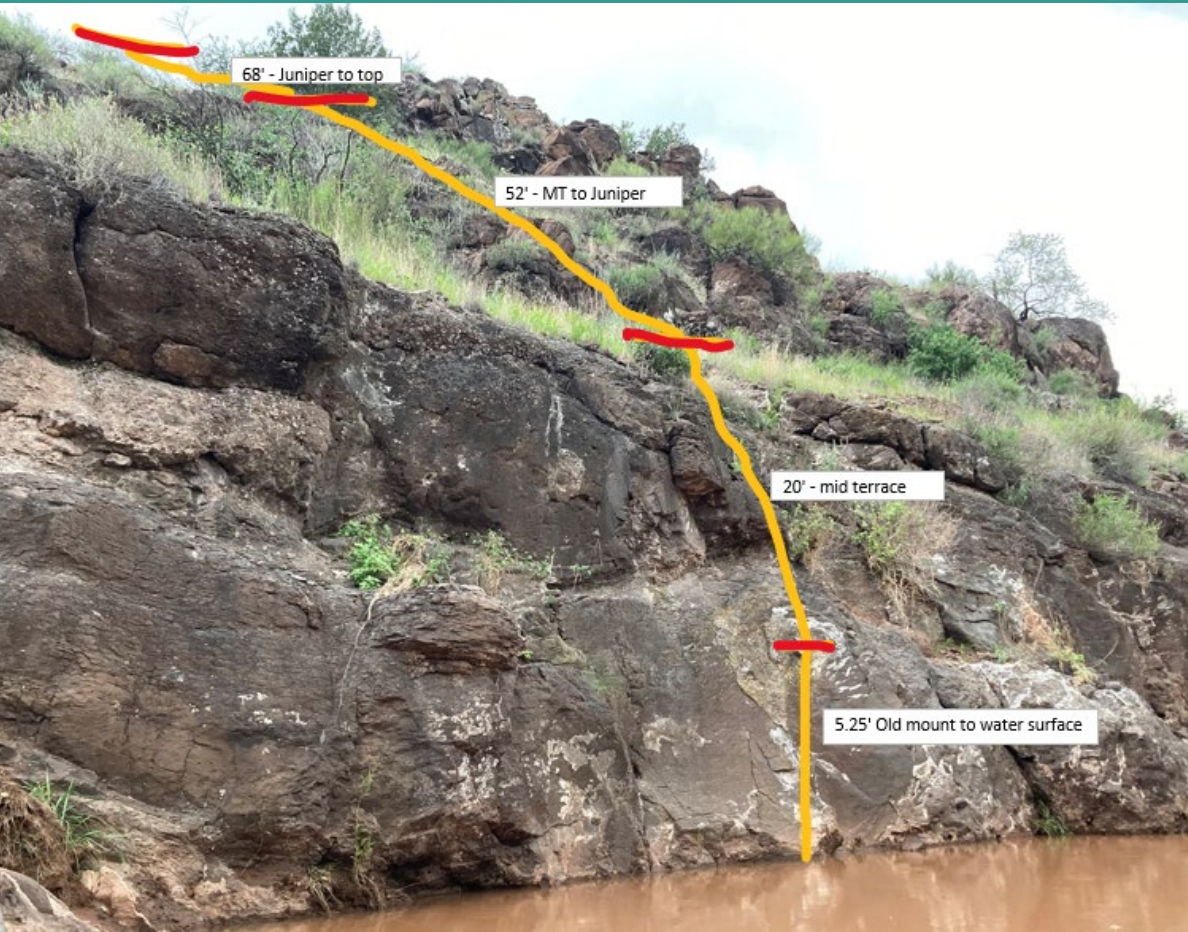
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# Spring Creek



- Move Solar and Batteries to Rim
- 6 volt, lead acid batteries & charge controller
- 150 ft. power leads to REM box



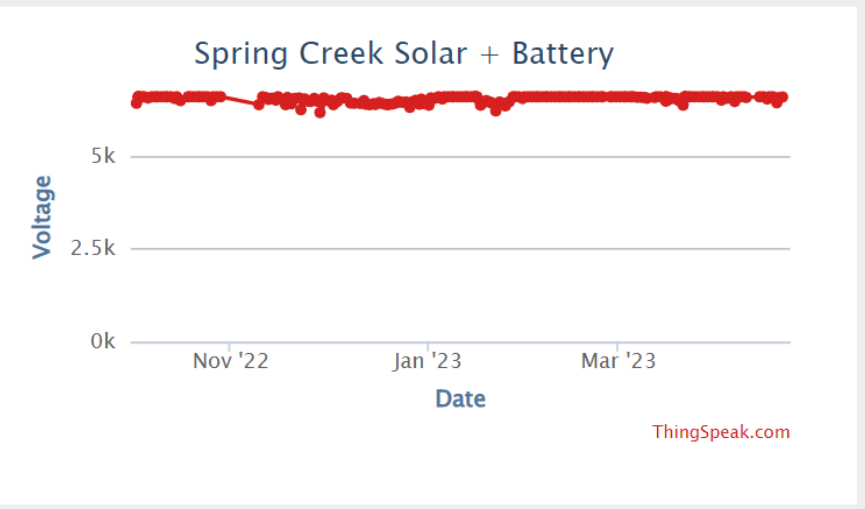
# Spring Creek



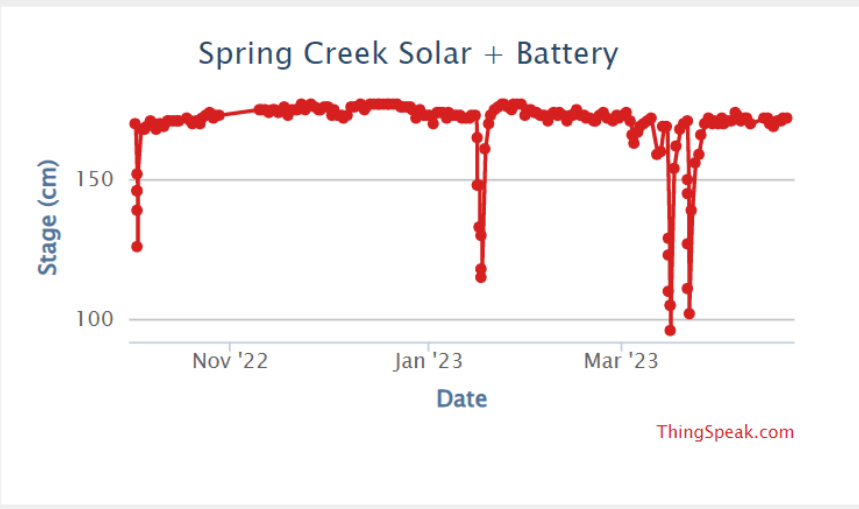


# Results

Field 1 Chart

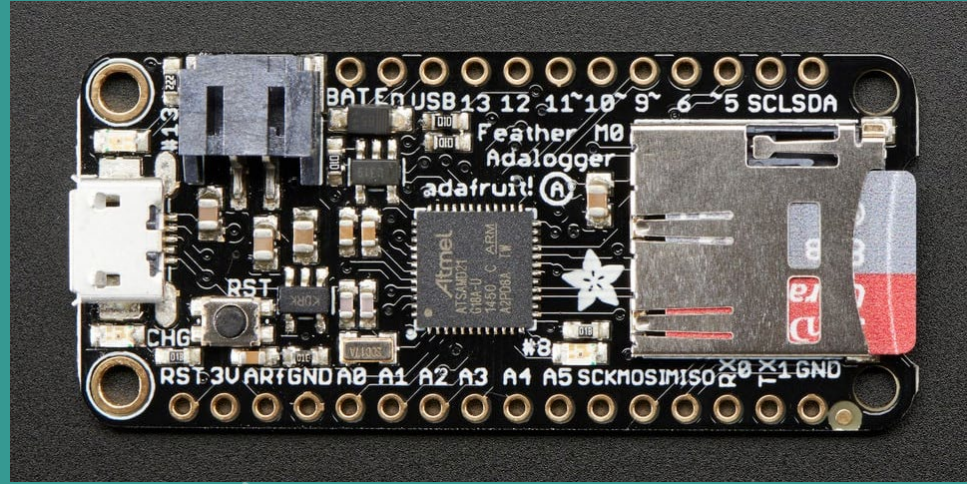


Field 2 Chart



# Future Development

Sensors  
Power Supply  
Telemetry  
Datalogging



- Coordination with Universities and NGOs
- Explore commercial options
- Repurpose existing technology



A circular logo on the left side of the slide, featuring a variety of white icons on a teal background. The icons include a sun, a mountain, a river, a fish, a tree, a flower, a hand, a gear, and various geometric shapes, representing different aspects of the environment and community.

# ARIZONA

**Thank You!**

Jason Elliott, R.G.  
Senior Hydrogeologist  
[Elliott.Jason@azdeq.gov](mailto:Elliott.Jason@azdeq.gov)