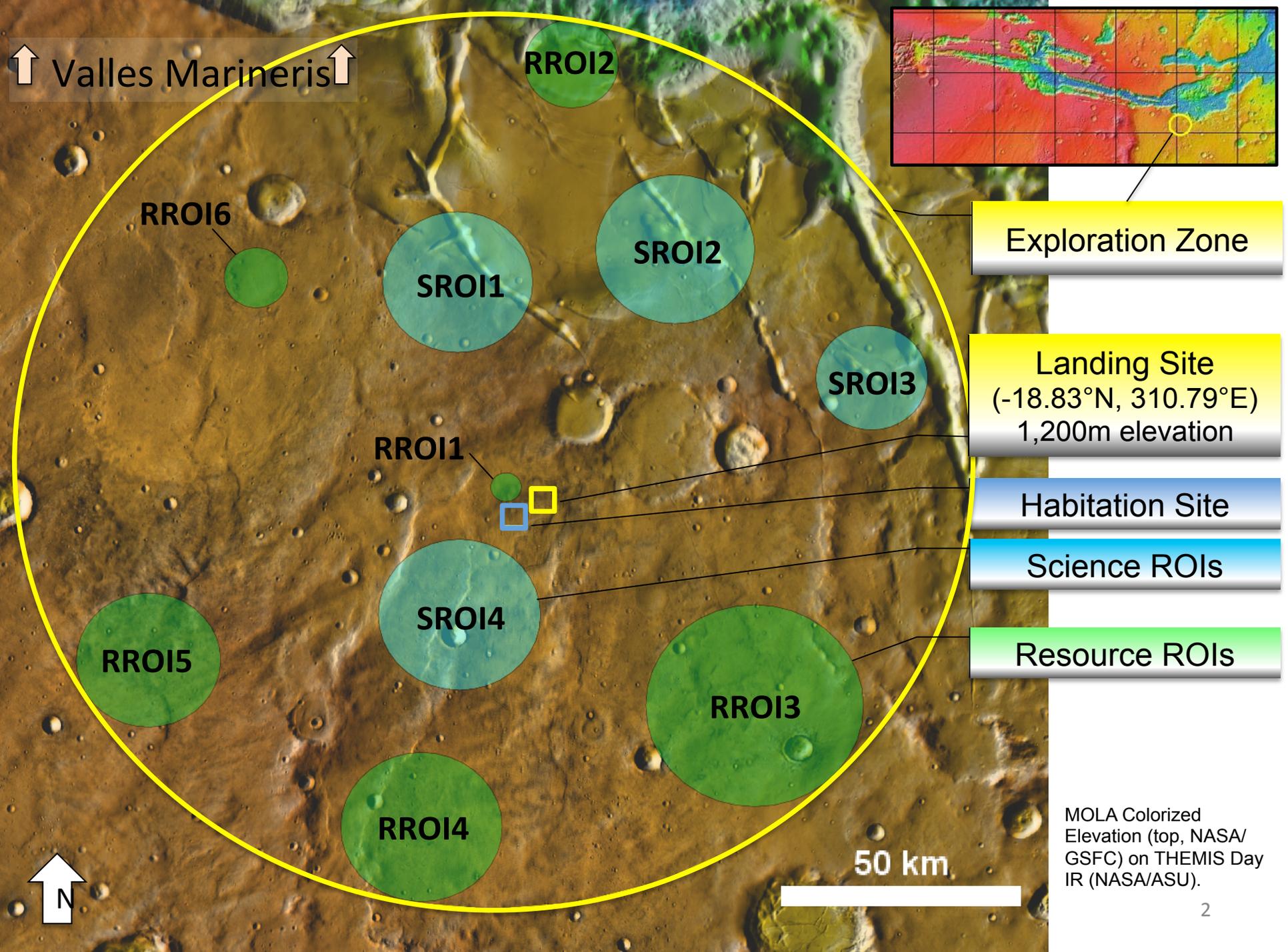


# Equatorial Opportunities for Humans on Mars

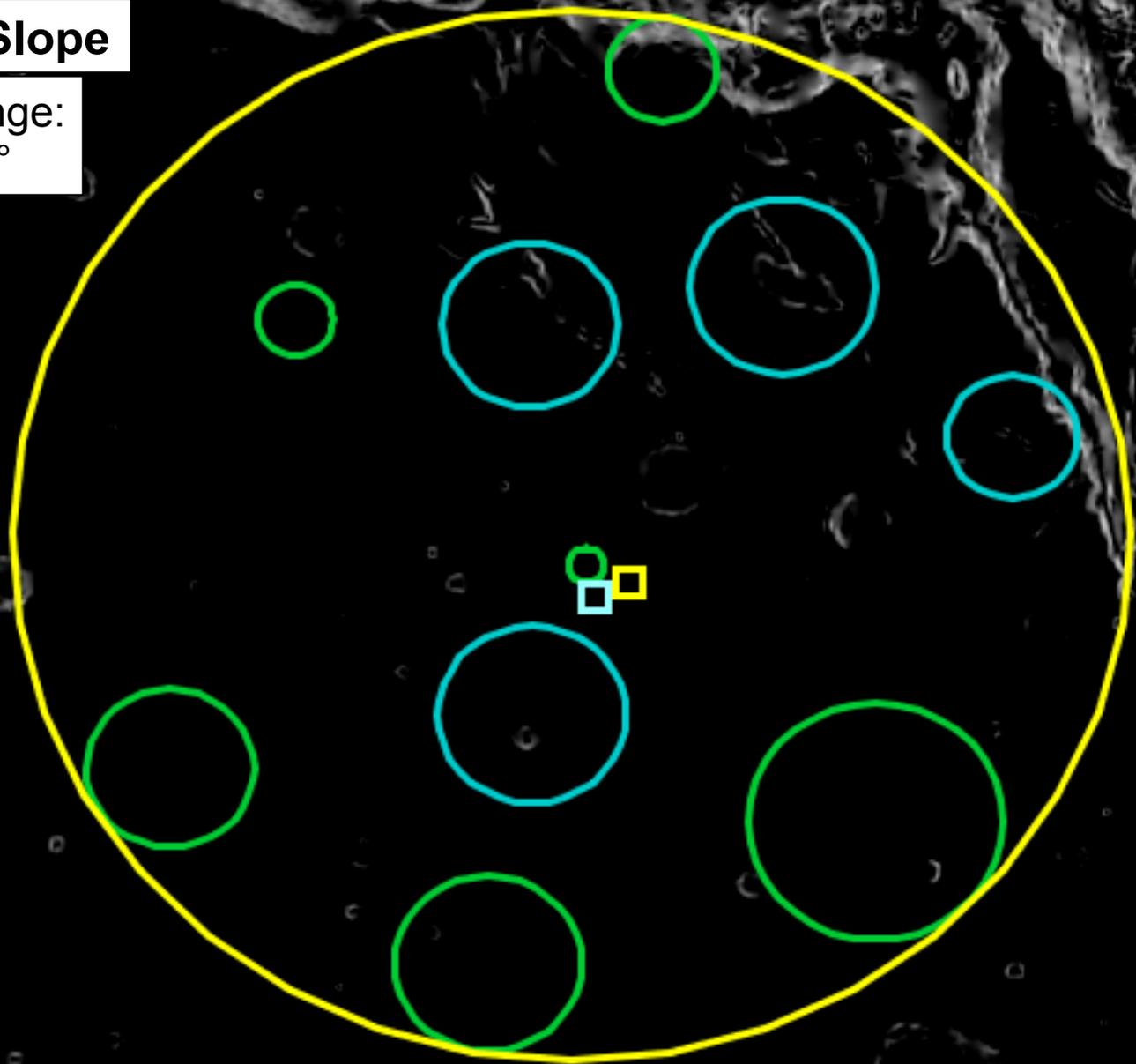
#1023

Julie Mitchell\* (Julie.L.Mitchell@asu.edu)  
Philip Christensen  
Arizona State University



# MOLA EZ Slope

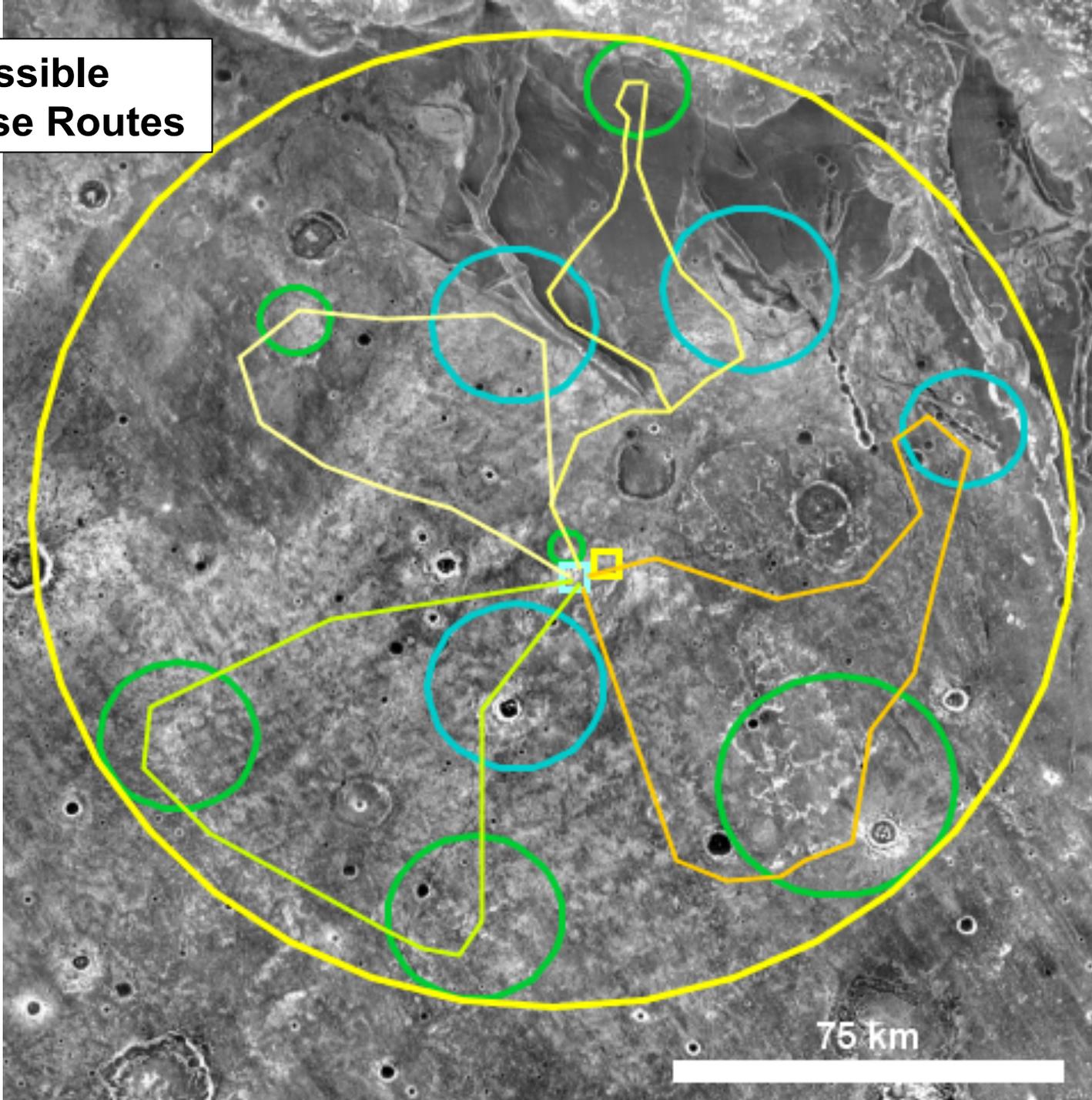
Slope Range:  
10° - 40°



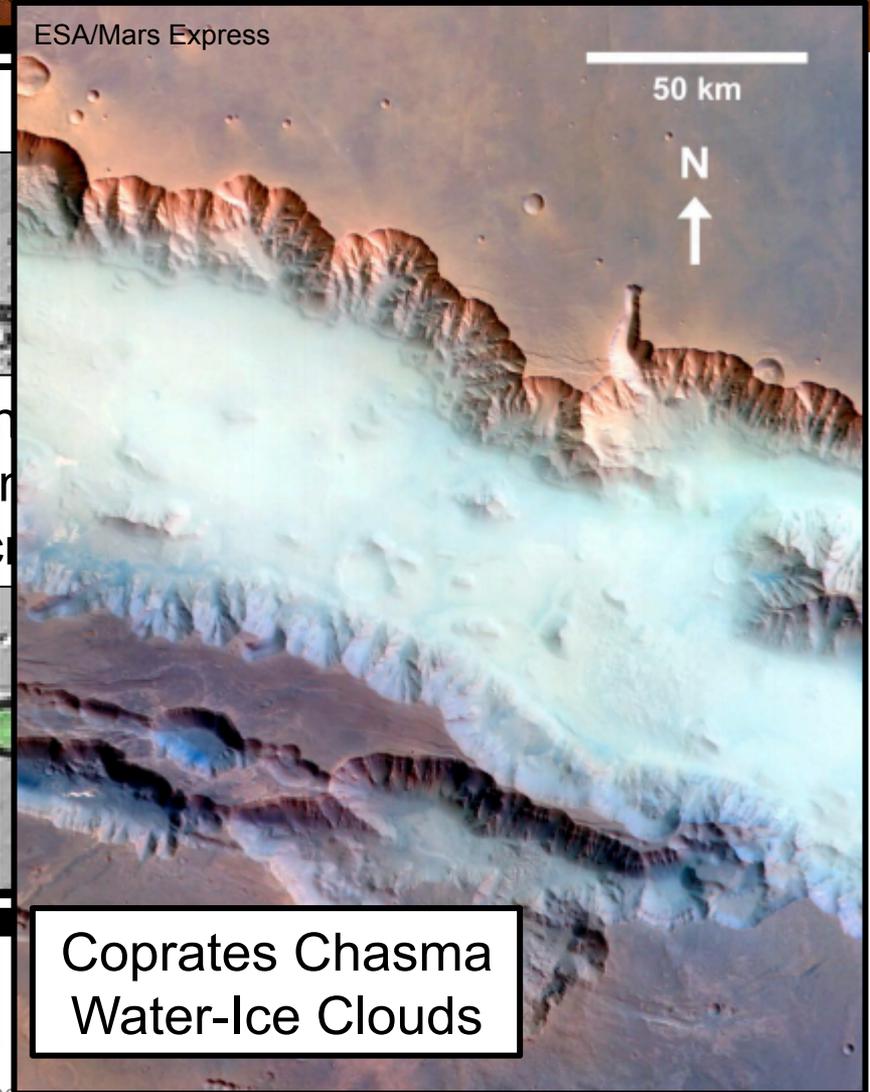
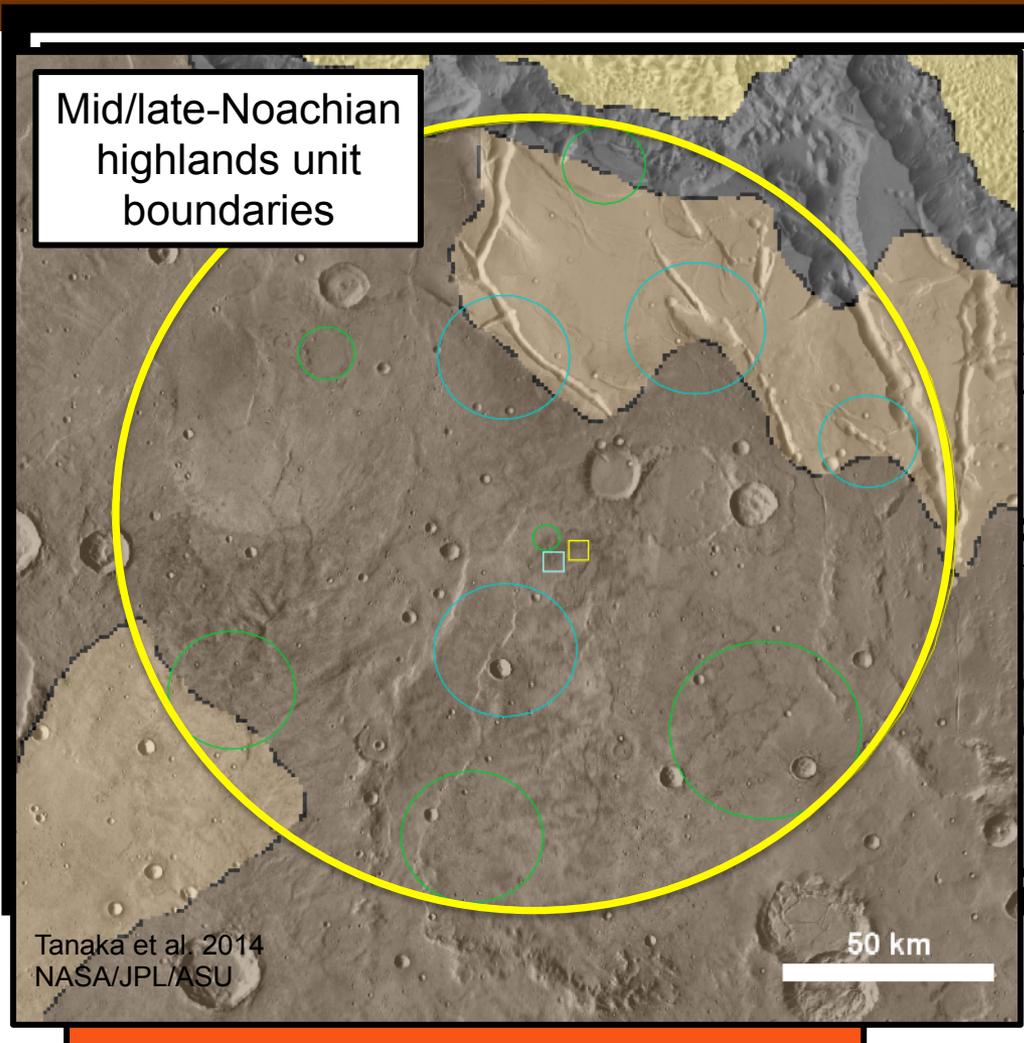
75 km



# Possible Traverse Routes



# EZ-Wide Science & Resources



# RUBRICS



# Science ROIs Rubric

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



		Site Factors		SROI1	SROI2	SROI3	SROI4	RROI1	RROI2	RROI3	RROI4	RROI5	RROI6	EZ SUM		
Science Site Criteria	Astrobio	Threshold	AND/OR	Potential for past habitability	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	?	7,0	
				Potential for present habitability/refugia					○	○	○	○				0,3
		Qualifying		Potential for organic matter, w/ surface exposure											0,0	
	Atmospheric Science	Threshold		Noachian/Hesperian rocks w/ trapped atmospheric gases	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0,0
				Meteorological diversity in space and time	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
		Qualifying		High likelihood of surface-atmosphere exchange					●	●			●			3,0
				Amazonian subsurface or high-latitude ice or sediment												0,0
				High likelihood of active trace gas sources	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0,0
	Geoscience	Threshold		Range of martian geologic time; datable surfaces	●	●	●			●			●			4,0
				Evidence of aqueous processes	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	?	7,2
			Potential for interpreting relative ages	●	●	●			●				●		4,0	
Qualifying				Igneous Rocks tied to 1+ provinces or different times	●	●	●						●		4,0	
				Near-surface ice, glacial or permafrost											0,0	
				Noachian or pre-Noachian bedrock units	●	●	●	●	●	?	●	●	●	●	●	9,0
				Outcrops with remnant magnetization	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	9,0
				Primary, secondary, and basin-forming impact deposits	●	●		●	●		●					0,0
			Structural features with regional or global context	●	●	●	●	?	●	?	●	?	?	6,0		
			Diversity of aeolian sediments and/or landforms	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10,0	

Key	
●	Yes
○	Partial Support or Debated
	No
?	Indeterminate

# Resource ROIs Rubric

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



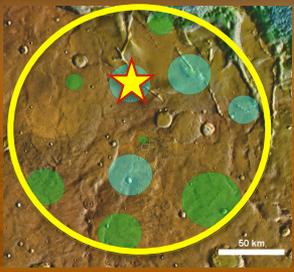
		Site Factors	SROI1	SROI2	SROI3	SROI4	RROI1	RROI2	RROI3	RROI4	RROI5	RROI6	EZ SUM			
ISRU and Civil Engineering Criteria	Engineering	Meets First Order Criteria (Latitude, Elevation, Thermal Inertia)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	(10,0)			
	Water Resource	Threshold	Potential for ice or ice/regolith mix											(0,0)		
			Potential for hydrated minerals	●	●	●		●	○	●	●	●		(7,1)		
			Quantity for substantial production					●			●	●			(2,0)	
			Potential to be minable by highly automated systems	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●			(8,0)	
			Located less than 3 km from processing equipment site					●							(1,0)	
			Located no more than 3 meters below the surface	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		(6,0)
			Accessible by automated systems	●	●	●		○	●	●	●	●	●			(7,1)
	Qualifying		Potential for multiple sources of ice, ice/regolith mix <b>and</b> hydrated minerals												(0,0)	
			Distance to resource location can be >5 km	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●			(7,0)
			Route to resource location must be (plausibly) traversable	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			(8,0)
	Civil Engineering	Threshold	~50 sq km region of flat and stable terrain with sparse rock distribution				●	●		●	●	●	●		(6,0)	
			1-10 km length scale: <10°	○	○	○	○	●		●	●	●	●		(5,4)	
		Qualifying	Qualifying	Located within 5 km of landing site location				●							(1,0)	
	Food Production	Qualifying	Located in the northern hemisphere												(0,0)	
			Evidence of abundant cobble sized or smaller rocks and bulk, loose regolith					○				○	○		(0,3)	
			Utilitarian terrain features	●	●	●	●		●							(5,0)
			Low latitude	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		(10,0)
	Metal/Silicon Resource	Threshold	No local terrain feature(s) that could shadow light collection facilities				●	●		●	●	●	●		(6,0)	
			Access to water	●	●	●		●	○	●	●	●			(7,1)	
Access to dark, minimally altered basaltic sands													●	(1,0)		
Metal/Silicon Resource	Threshold	Potential for metal/silicon			●	●		●		●	●	●		(4,0)		
		Potential to be minable by highly automated systems			●	●		●		●	●	●		(4,0)		
		Located less than 3 km from processing equipment site												(0,0)		
		Located no more than 3 meters below the surface			●	●		●		●	●	●			(4,0)	
		Accessible by automated systems			●	●		●		●	●	●			(4,0)	
Qualifying		Potential for multiple sources of metals/silicon			●	●		●		●	●	●		(1,0)		
		Distance to resource location can be >5 km			●	●		●		●	●	●			(4,0)	
		Route to resource location must be (plausibly) traversable			●	●		●		●	●	●		(4,0)		

## Key

●	Yes
○	Partial Support or Debated
	No
?	Indet.

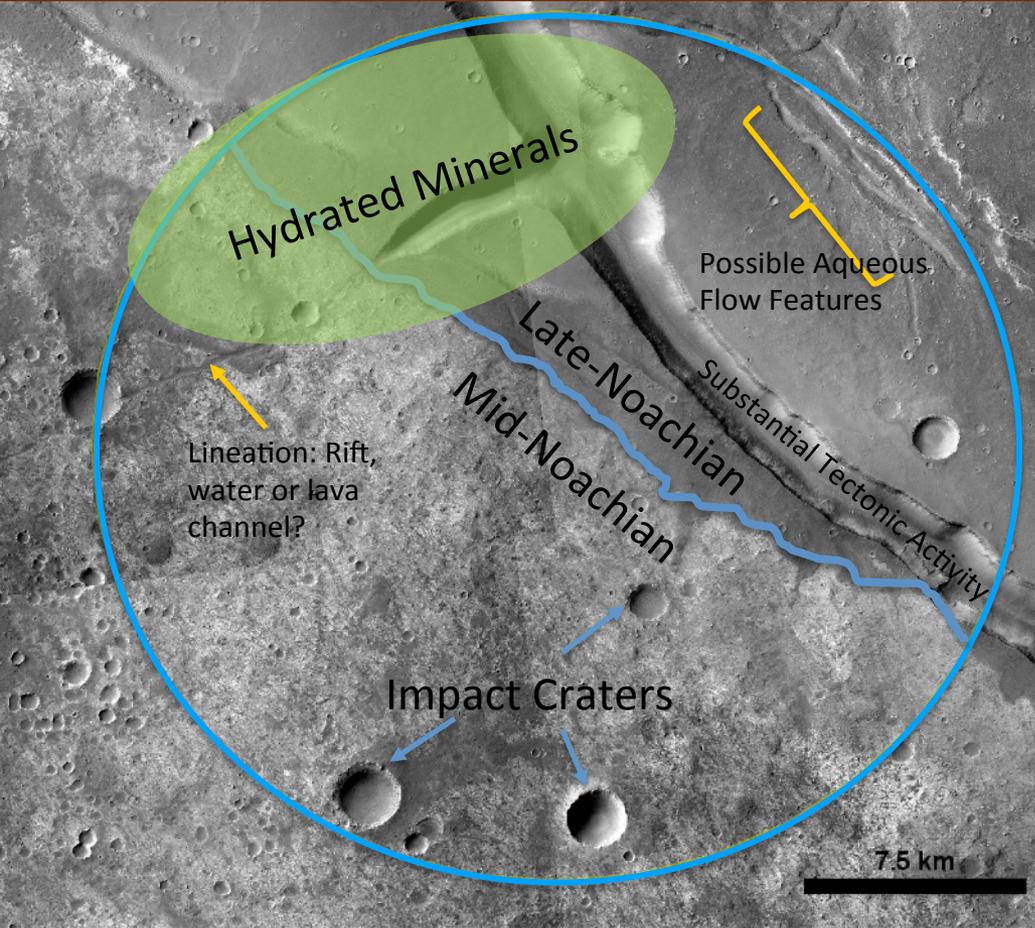
An astronaut in a white spacesuit stands on the reddish, rocky surface of Mars, looking out over a vast, flat landscape under a clear blue sky. A bright sun is visible on the horizon to the left. The astronaut is wearing a helmet and a backpack, and is standing with their back to the camera, looking towards the horizon.

# SCIENCE ROI<sub>s</sub>



# Science ROI 1

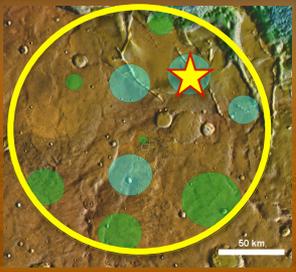
1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



**Coordinates: (-18.00°N, 310.48°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,200m**

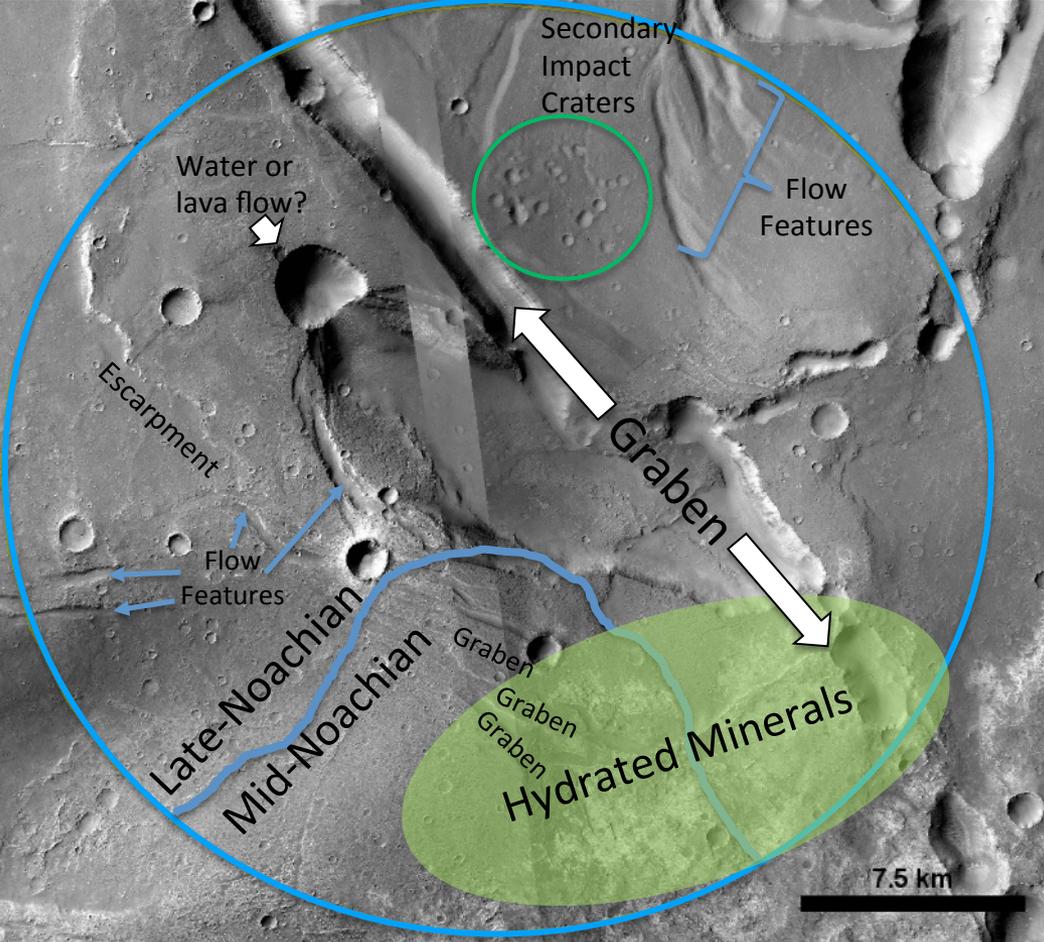
- Coverage:
  - Full CTX
  - Partial HRSC/CRISM
  - No HiRISE
- Primary Science Opportunities:
  - mNh/INh contact
  - Hydrated minerals
  - Study of global tectonic process (VM formation)
  - Aqueous geomorphology
  - Impact crater processes

CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Hydrated minerals from OMEGA (ESA/CNES/CNRS/IAS/ Université Paris-Sud, Orsay). Geologic contact from Tanaka et al., 2015.



# Science ROI 2

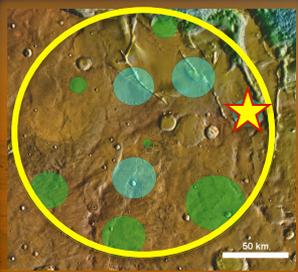
1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



**Coordinates: (-17.87°N, 311.29°E)**  
**Elevation: 650m**

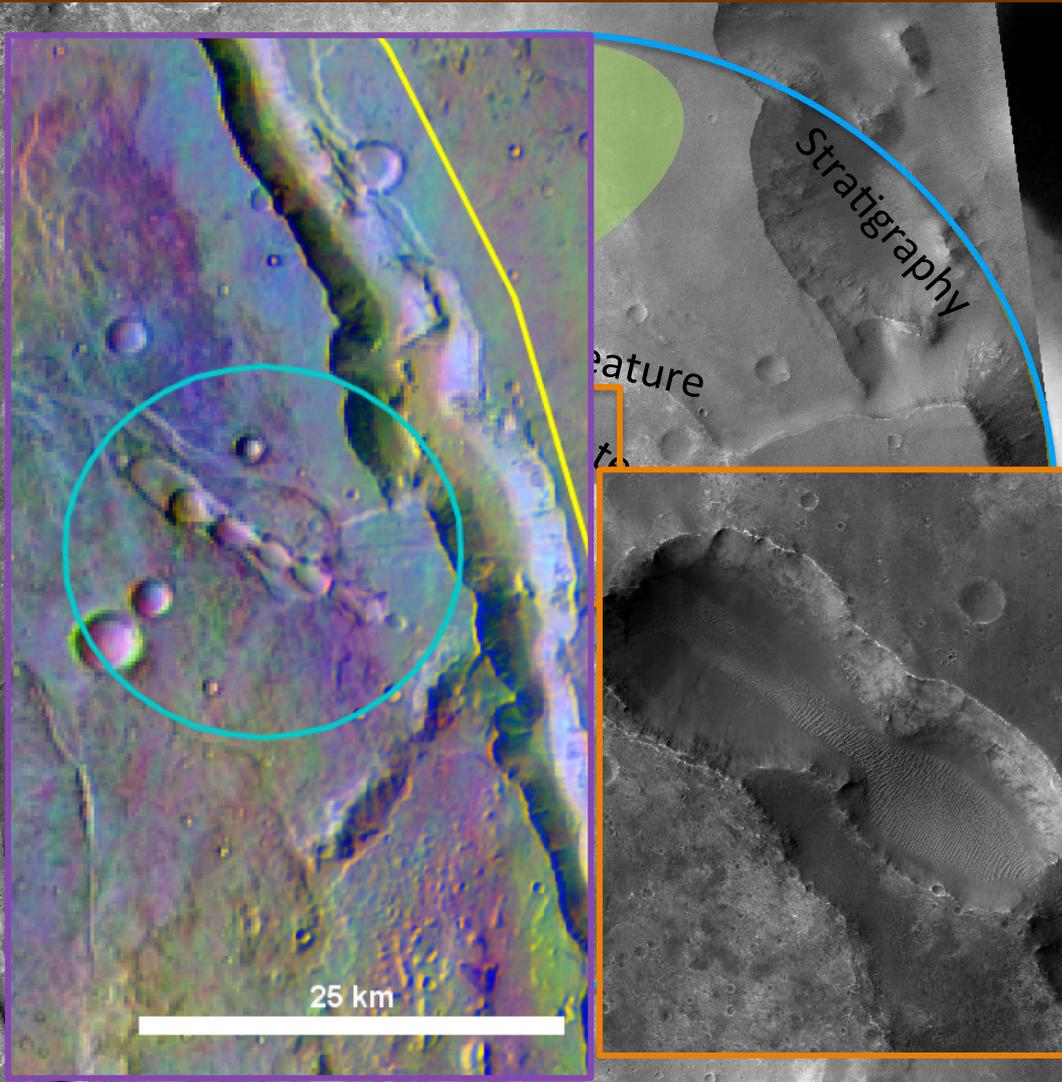
- Coverage:
  - Full CTX
  - Partial HRSC/HiRISE
  - No CRISM
- Primary Science Opportunities:
  - Eruption event in NW quadrant
  - Study of global tectonic process (VM formation)
  - Impact crater processes, including possible secondaries
  - Aqueous geomorphology
  - mNh/INh contact
  - Hydrated minerals

CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Hydrated minerals from OMEGA (ESA/CNES/CNRS/IAS/ Université Paris-Sud, Orsay). Geologic contact from Tanaka et al., 2015.



# Science ROI 3

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



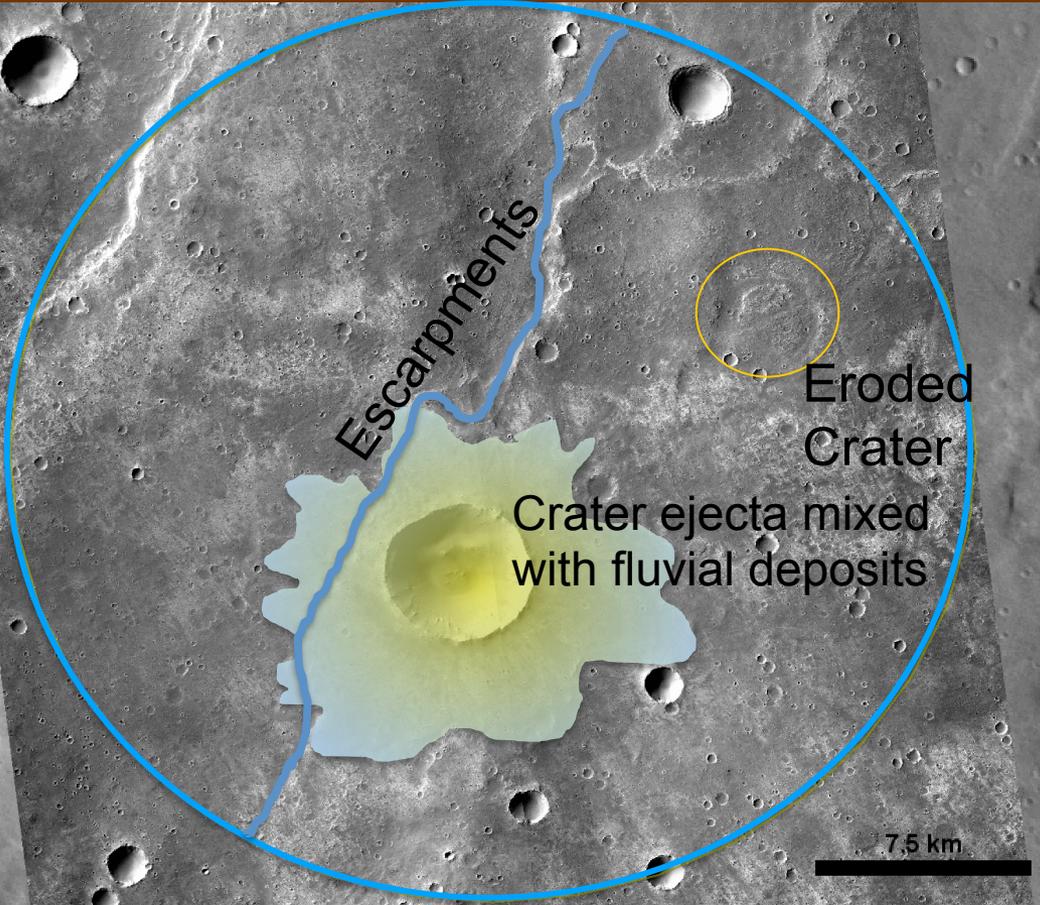
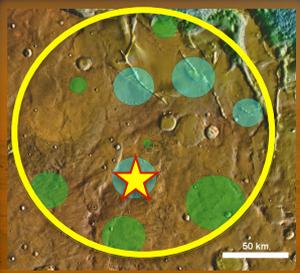
**Coordinates: (-18.34°N, 312.01°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,180m**

- Coverage:
  - Full CTX
  - Partial HRSC/CRISM/ HiRISE
- Science Opportunities:
  - Pit crater chain: volcanic or tectonic process?
  - Olivine deposits
  - Tharsis stratigraphy
  - Flow features in INh unit
  - INh/mNh unit transition
  - Hydrated minerals
  - Impact crater processes

CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Hydrated mins - OMEGA (ESA/CNES/CNRS/IAS/Université Paris-Sud, Orsay). Geologic units - Tanaka et al., 2015. Olivine - THEMIS DCS/Edwards et al., 2008). Pit chain hi-res- HiRISE (NASA/JPL/UA).

# Science ROI 4

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



**Coordinates: (-19.23°N, 310.49°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,365m**

- Coverage:
  - Full CTX/HRSC
  - Partial CRISM
  - No HiRISE
- Science Opportunities:
  - Numerous escarpments: indicative of compressional tectonics
  - Rampart crater: ancient fluvial processes

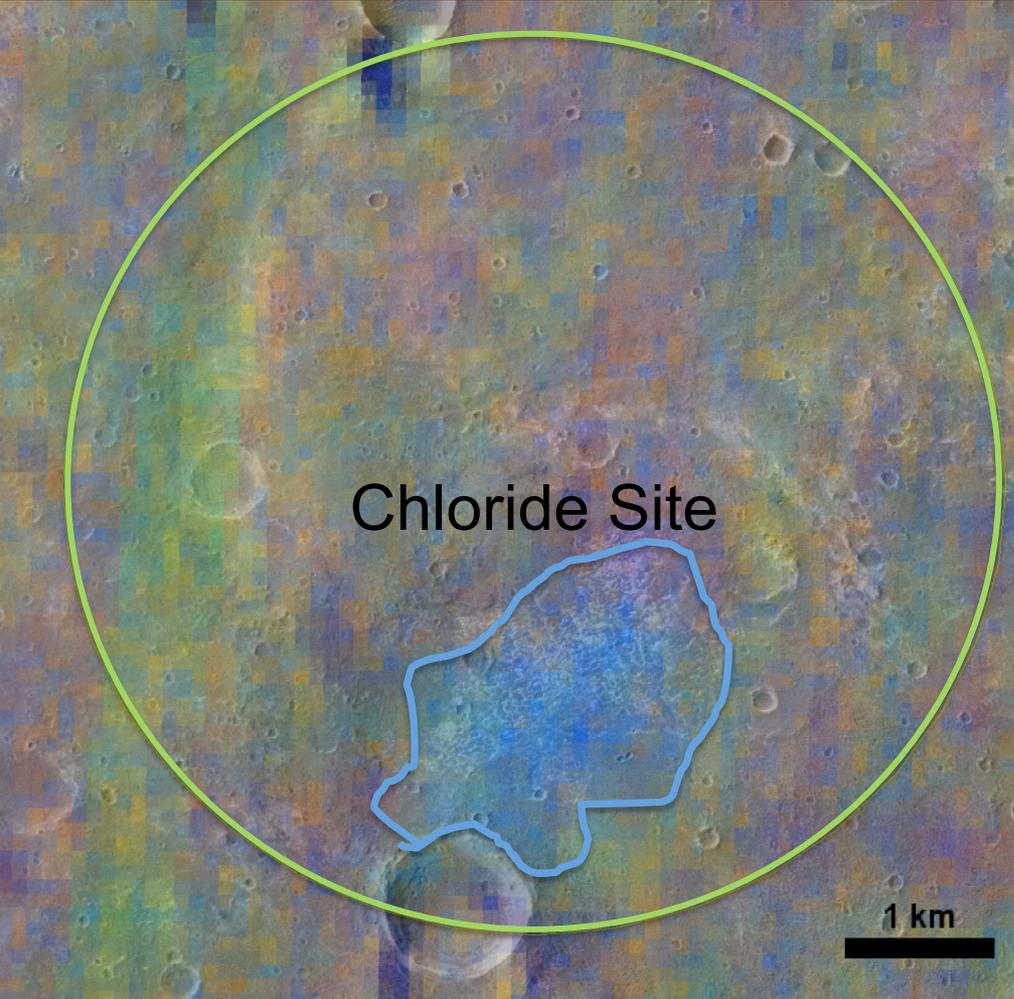
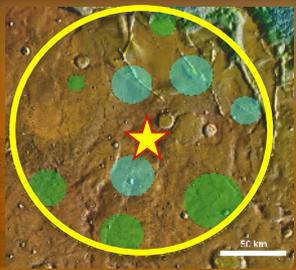
CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS).

An astronaut in a white spacesuit stands on the reddish, rocky surface of Mars, looking out over a vast, flat landscape under a clear blue sky. A bright sun is visible on the horizon to the left. The astronaut is wearing a helmet and a backpack, and is standing with their back to the camera, looking towards the horizon.

# RESOURCE ROI<sub>s</sub>

# Resource ROI 1

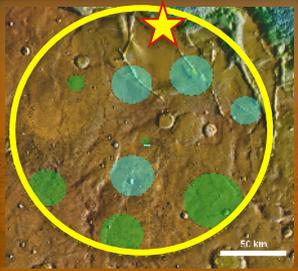
1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



**Coordinates: (-18.77°N, 310.65°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,230m**

- Coverage:
  - Full CTX/HRSC
  - No HiRISE/CRISM
- Available Resources:
  - Chloride Site
  - Building Material (dunes)

CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Chloride site (THEMIS/Osterloo et al. 2008, 2010).



# Resource ROI 2

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



RSL Activity

**Coordinates: (-17.18°N, 310.90°E)**  
**Elevation: 500m**

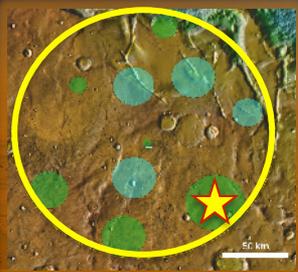
- Coverage:
  - Full CTX
  - Partial HRSC
  - No HiRISE/CRISM
- Available Resources:
  - Elevated ferric oxide and olivine throughout northern 75% of ROI (via OMEGA)
  - Proximity to active RSL in Valles Marineris

Opportunities for telerobotic ops

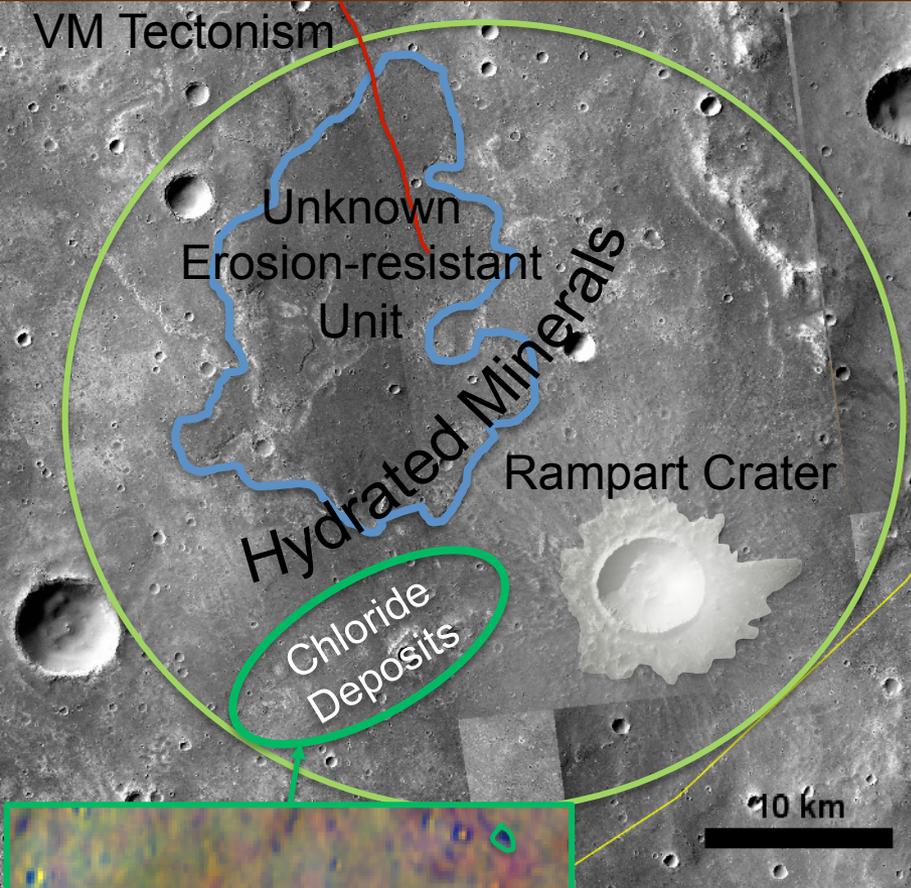
CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Ferric oxide/olv - OMEGA (ESA/CNES/CNRS/IAS/ Université Paris-Sud, Orsay). HiRISE image (NASA/JPL/UA), RSL (McEwen et al., 2013).

# Resource ROI 3

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



VM Tectonism



**Coordinates: (-19.59°N, 311.58°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,120m**

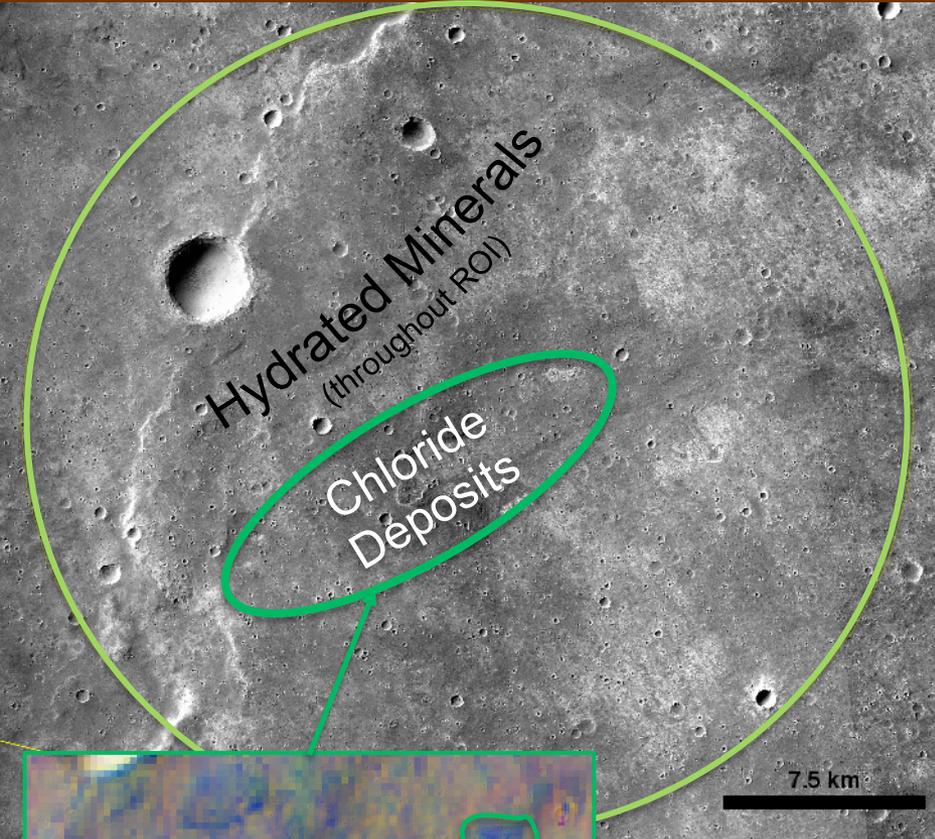
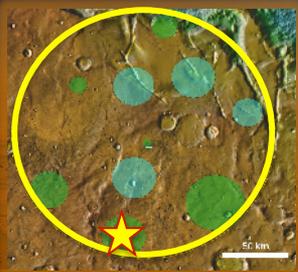
- Coverage:
  - Full CTX
  - Partial HRSC/CRISM
  - No HiRISE
- Available Resources:
  - Chloride deposits
  - Hydrated minerals throughout
  - Multiple science opportunities (erosion-resistant unit, rampart crater, tectonics)



MSSS). Hydrated  
CNRS/IAS/ Université  
EMIS/Osterloo et al.

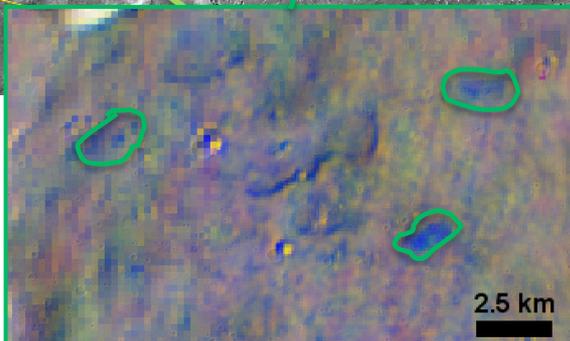
# Resource ROI 4

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars

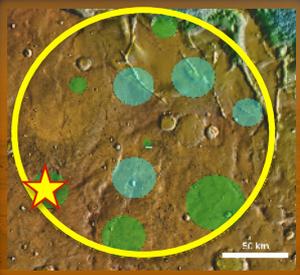


Coordinates: (-20.02°N, 310.30°E)  
Elevation: 1,440m

- Coverage:
  - Full CTX/HRSC
  - Partial CRISM
  - No HiRISE
- Available Resources:
  - Chloride deposits
  - Hydrated minerals throughout ROI

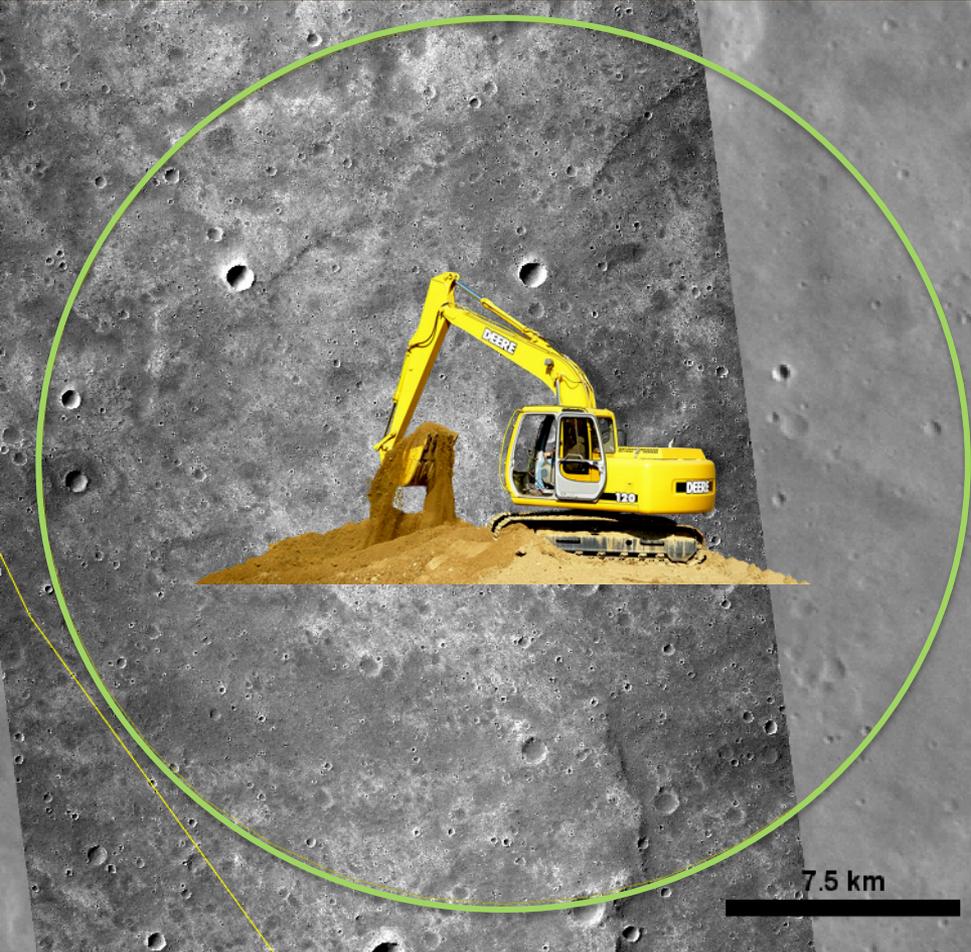


hydrated minerals from Paris-Sud, Orsay). (2010).



# Resource ROI 5

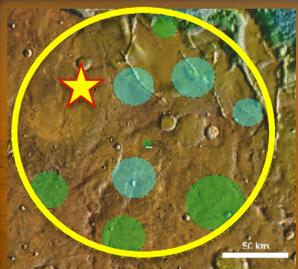
1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



**Coordinates: (-19.40°N, 309.27°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,600m**

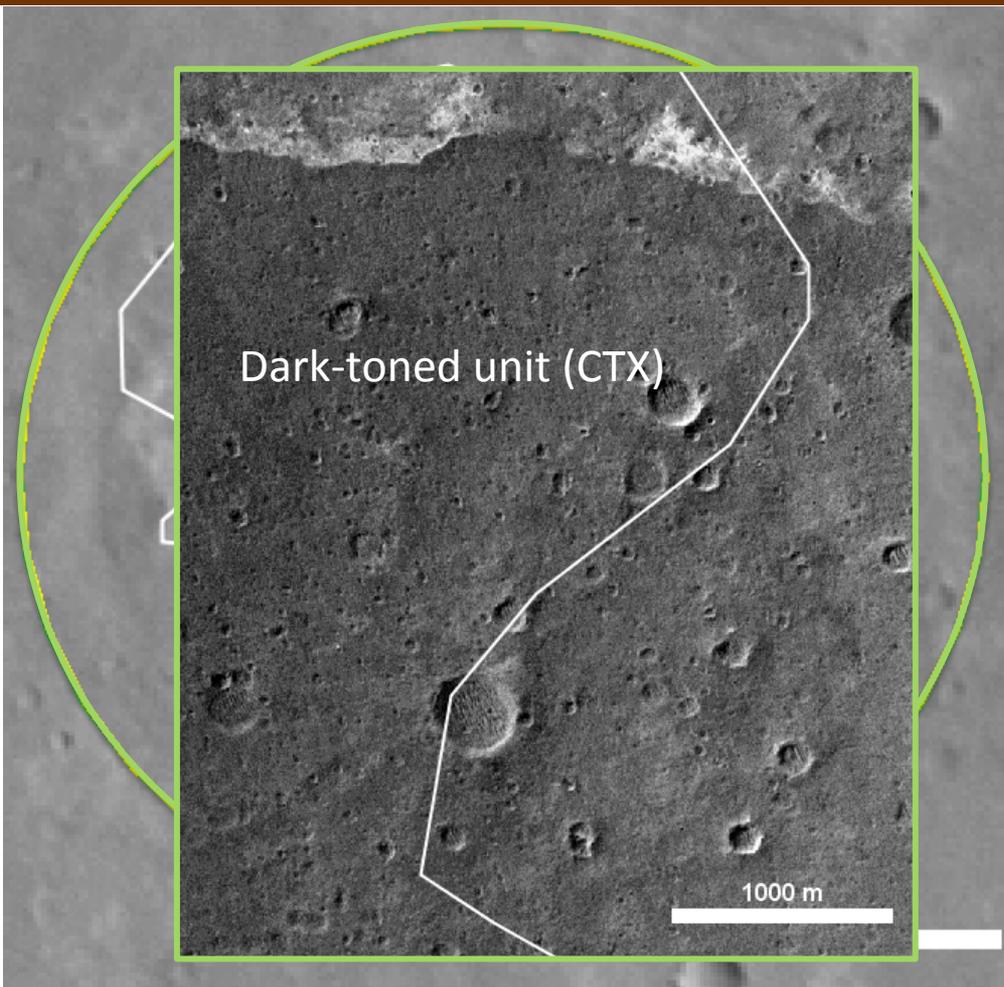
- Coverage:
  - Partial CTX/HRSC
  - No HiRISE/CRISM
- Available Resources:
  - Hydrated minerals throughout ROI
  - Abundant sand-sized grains (based on thermal inertia)
  - Possible plagioclase-rich and high-Si phases within ROI
  - Flat terrain

CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Thermal inertia – THEMIS (NASA/JPL/ASU). Mineralogy – TES (NASA/JPL/ASU).



# Resource ROI 6

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



**Coordinates: (-17.98°N, 309.73°E)**  
**Elevation: 1,192m**

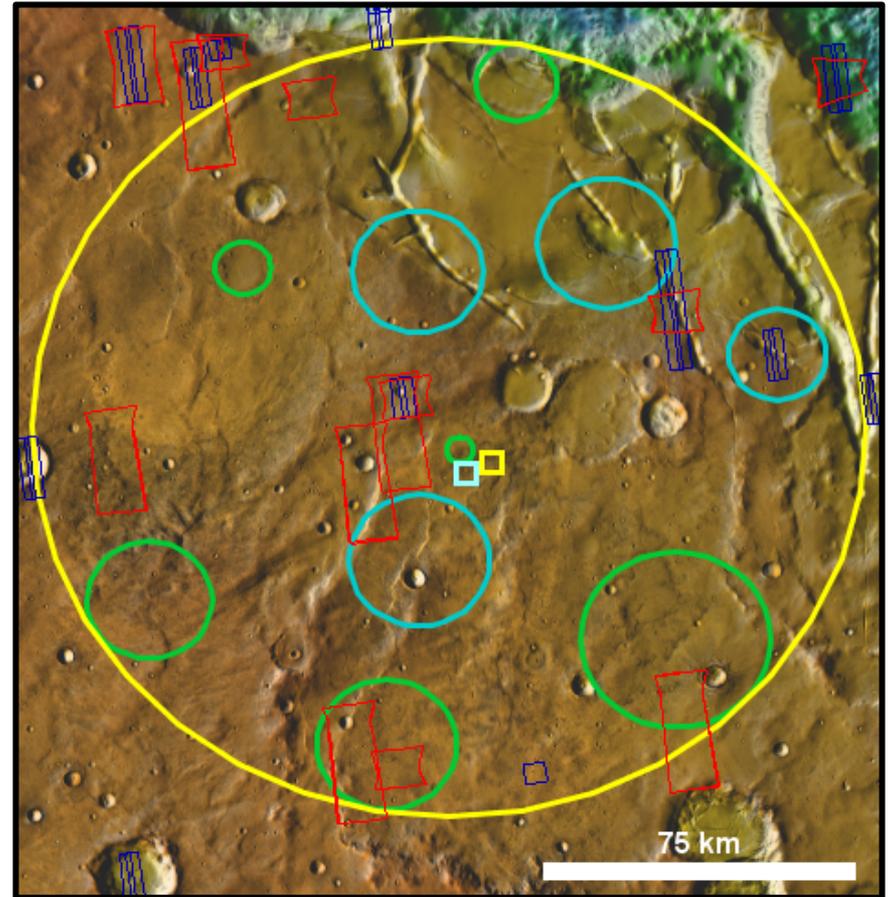
- Coverage:
  - Full CTX/HRSC
  - No HiRISE/CRISM
- Available Resources:
  - Olivine deposit in western ROI
  - Sand-sized basalt grains throughout ROI
  - Heavily degraded crater

CTX basemap (NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS). Olivine and grain size (via thermal inertia) – THEMIS (NASA/JPL/ASU). Basalt – TES (NASA/JPL/ASU).

# Highest Priority EZ Data Needs

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars

1. Visible/near-infrared spectral verification of large-scale hydrated mineral deposits (CRISM FRT)
2. High-resolution imagery of landing and habitation sites (HiRISE)
3. High-spatial & spectral-resolution composition in thermal infrared (basalt, plagioclase, silica) and temperature
4. High-resolution slope for safety assessment of ROIs
5. Assessment of atmospheric water vapor



MOLA elevation (NASA/GSFC) on THEMIS Day IR (NASA/JPL/ASU).

# BACK-UP SLIDES



# Prioritization List of EZ Data Needs

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars



- **Visible/near-IR spectroscopy of large-scale hydrated mineral deposits (CRISM FRT)**
  - Science: To assess the extent and duration of aqueous activity on the surface and to focus crew surface investigations.
  - Resource: To quantify the amount of water available and accessible for crew use.
- **High-spatial-resolution and high-spectral-resolution assessment of composition in thermal IR (basalt, plagioclase, silica) and characterization of temperatures in the region (diurnal/annual)**
  - Science: To characterize the geologic distribution of volcanics, sedimentary deposits, altered materials, and other minerals in the region. To characterize the thermal variation in the region with time of day and season.
  - Resource: To find minerals that harbor metals (Mg, Fe) and silica for building purposes. To assess crew safety and hardware requirements by understanding the thermal environment in which operations will be conducted.
- **High-resolution imagery of landing and habitation sites (HiRISE).**
  - Science: To assist with characterization of geologic and geomorphologic sites of interest.
  - Resource: To assess the boundaries of resources (i.e. dark-toned olivine deposits).
- **High-resolution slope for safety assessment of ROIs (HRSC).**
- **Assessment of atmospheric water vapor (MAVEN or other atmospheric science asset).**
  - Science: To characterize the atmospheric environment at the martian surface.
  - Resource: To quantify the abundance of water vapor to assess its potential as a water source for crew use during surface operations.
- **Rover-based exploration of chloride sites**
  - Science: To confirm the chloride anion present and assess ancient hydrologic environment
  - Resource: To explore small-scale adsorbed water, phyllosilicates, and possible liquid water at depth

# Valles Marineris

1<sup>st</sup> EZ Workshop for Human Missions to Mars

