

An aerial photograph of a rugged, rocky landscape. The terrain is characterized by steep slopes and deep, winding gullies. The rock surfaces show distinct horizontal layering or sedimentary structures. The colors range from light tan to dark grey, indicating different rock compositions or mineral content. The overall appearance is one of significant erosion and geological complexity.

CLIFFS OF CRUMBLING, LAYERED SEDIMENTS

Here we see large gullies and sediment fans along the steepest slopes. Massive deposits of sediments rich in hydrated sulfates are found in central Valles Marineris. Such deposits on Earth are soft and easily eroded, and that appears to be true on Mars as well.



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