

Late Springtime Defrosting of Northern Dunes

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This observation shows dunes in the Martian north polar sand sea (commonly referred to as the "north polar erg") in the process of defrosting. Every winter, dunes and other surfaces at these northern latitudes are coated with several tens of centimeters of carbon dioxide frost and ice, plus a minor amount of water frost. Details of this process are particularly visible here. The white material is fine grained frost.

The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: <u>uahirise.org</u>.