

Climbing in Nereidum Montes

ESP_029608_1390



This image shows the southern part of a dune field in Nereidum Montes, which is being monitored for changes in dune and ripple positions. Many of the dunes in this image are overlying steep slopes. The slopes are dipping to the south, yet the dunes, as evidenced by the north-facing orientation of their steep slip faces, are being blown upslope, to the north. Such "climbing dunes" have been found elsewhere on Mars, such as in Valles Marineris and in this case, indicate relatively strong southerly winds.

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: uahirise.org.