

An Overflow Channel from Athabasca Vallis

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A MOC image over this area showed a channel spilling out of the larger Athabasca Vallis (trending east-west at the north end of this image) and flowing to the south. The channel splits into multiple branches, creating about ten streamlined mesas. Vague bumps were visible on the channel floor in the MOC image-perhaps large boulders that were deposited by floodwaters?

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.