



Dunes on the Rim of Hellas Impact Basin

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Sand dunes such as those seen in this image have been observed to creep slowly across the surface of Mars through the action of the wind. These are a particular type of dune called a “barchan,” which forms when the wind blows in one direction (here, east to west) for long periods of time. Barchan dunes are common on Mars and in the desert regions of the Earth. These barchan dunes are located on the western rim of the Hellas impact basin, in the southern hemisphere of Mars.