



# Planetary Geologic Mapping: *Process, product, and relevance to scientific research*

J. A. Skinner, Jr.  
*Map Coordinator*  
*Astrogeology Science Center*  
*U. S. Geological Survey*  
*Flagstaff, AZ*

S. Lawrence  
*PCGMWG Chair*  
*Arizona State University*  
*Tempe, AZ*



# Outline

---

Planetary cartography (+geology)

Basic concepts and history

Topical vs. Contextual

Work flow

Funding

Management

Concerns

Conclusion

---

# PLANETARY CARTOGRAPHY: MAPPING SOLID OBJECTS BEYOND EARTH

---

- High quality, reliable processes and products
    - Geodesy and control
    - Image processing
    - Precision co-registration and geo-registration
    - Tool development
    - Visual representation
    - Community standards
  - **Critical infrastructure for dissemination, scientific analysis, and public consumption of mission data**
  - Planetary cartography  $\neq$  geologic mapping
-

# PLANETARY GEOLOGIC MAPPING: A COMPONENT OF CARTOGRAPHY

---

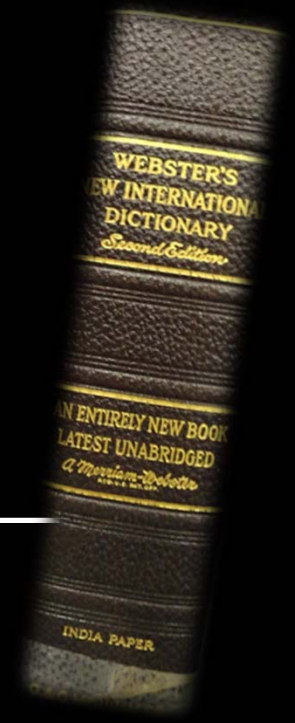
- Multiple planetary bodies
    - Mars, Moon, Venus, Mercury
    - Io, Ganymede, Enceladus
    - Small bodies
  - Geodetic control at various scales
  - Wide range of data sets
  - Processing, mosaicking, and co-registration
  - Standardized process and product
  - **Driven by community need**
    - Guided by NASA, PSS, and AGs
-

# CONCEPTS OF GEOLOGIC MAPPING

---

**geo·log·ic map** *noun* (\ jē-ə-lä-jik \ map \)

- : a chart showing the distribution of discrete geologic bodies in a particular area, emphasizing spatial and temporal associations, in order to inform about evolution
- : **a contextual framework for displaying bulk observations**
- : minimally consists of map, symbol key, and description of map units



# GEOLOGIC MAPPING ON EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL BODIES?

---

- Remote observations sufficient?
- Limited datasets (topography)
- What to describe? In what detail?
- How infer 3-D architecture?
  - Terrestrial outcrop formed by tectonism and erosion
- How similar are the geological processes to Earth?
- Addressed by Shoemaker et al. in 1960s
  - Approach works because it is based on standard observation

# HISTORY OF PLANETARY GEOLOGIC MAPPING

---

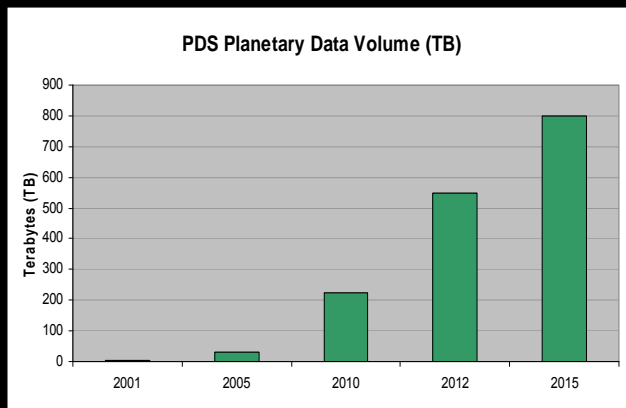
- Relationship with NASA and USGS
    - Planetary cartography
    - Geologic mapping (coordinated campaigns)
    - Technology development
    - Mission support (astronaut training, landing sites)
  - On behalf of NASA, USGS has published:
    - >150 of planetary geologic maps
    - Multiple bodies, scales, bases
  - Standardized process and products
  - Exciting time for planetary studies
-

# MODERN PLANETARY GEOLOGIC MAPPING

Data volumes  
Data types  
Spatial scale  
Formats  
GIS



*PDS Data Portals*

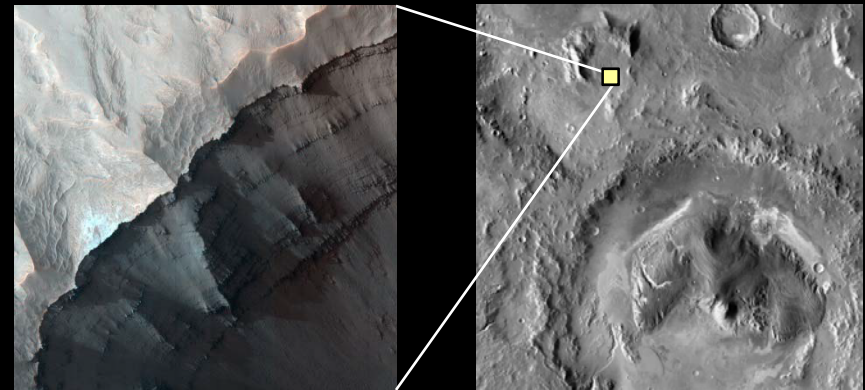
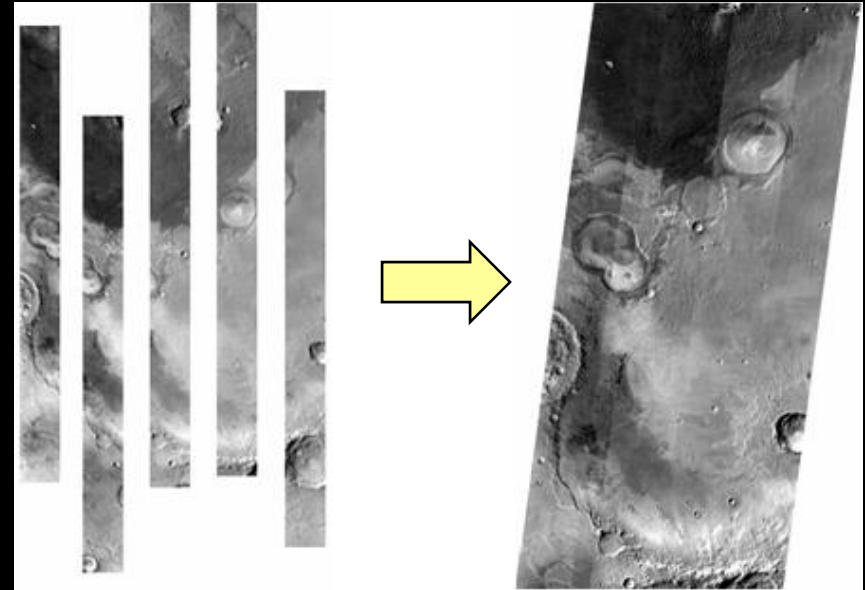


*Mission Portals*



# MODERN PLANETARY GEOLOGIC MAPPING

- Modern process
  - Controlled digital mosaics
  - GIS and tablets
  - Quad or non-quad
  - Mapping  $\neq$  production scale
- Modern product
  - Hard copy and digital maps (GIS)
  - Unlimited and immediate distribution
  - Diverse utility



# TOPICAL VS. CONTEXTUAL MAPS

---

- Data volumes & digital environments ~ cartographic concepts are common
    - Pipeline production (e.g., DTM, batch processing, mosaicking)
    - Geodetic control (mission specific)
    - Nomenclature (your name here!)
    - Journal-based geologic maps
  - Maps all fulfill purpose, but are not equivalent
    - Different use of community-adopted criteria
    - Range of accuracy and precision
    - Standards: Easy to say, hard to do
-

# TOPICAL VS. CONTEXTUAL MAPS

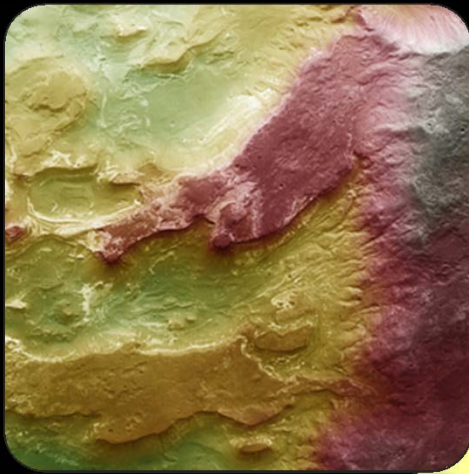
## Topical Maps

- Flexible in approach (variable scale, variable base)
- Tactical timeline (high response to data curve)
- Reviewed primarily for scientific integrity
- Published in scientific journals
- Observations  $\leq$  Interpretations



## Contextual Maps

- Rigid in approach (set scale, standard base)
- Strategic timeline (low response to data curve)
- Reviewed for scientific as well as cartographic and technical integrity
- Published by standard survey
- Observations  $>$  Interpretations



# TOPICAL VS. CONTEXTUAL MAPS

USGS  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

## #2 – Correlation of Map Units

STRATIGRAPHIC CORRELATION CHART

## #4 – Description of Map Units

UNIT	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
1	[Symbol]	...
2	[Symbol]	...
3	[Symbol]	...
4	[Symbol]	...
5	[Symbol]	...
6	[Symbol]	...
7	[Symbol]	...
8	[Symbol]	...
9	[Symbol]	...
10	[Symbol]	...
11	[Symbol]	...
12	[Symbol]	...
13	[Symbol]	...
14	[Symbol]	...
15	[Symbol]	...
16	[Symbol]	...
17	[Symbol]	...
18	[Symbol]	...
19	[Symbol]	...
20	[Symbol]	...
21	[Symbol]	...
22	[Symbol]	...
23	[Symbol]	...
24	[Symbol]	...
25	[Symbol]	...
26	[Symbol]	...
27	[Symbol]	...
28	[Symbol]	...
29	[Symbol]	...
30	[Symbol]	...
31	[Symbol]	...
32	[Symbol]	...
33	[Symbol]	...
34	[Symbol]	...
35	[Symbol]	...
36	[Symbol]	...
37	[Symbol]	...
38	[Symbol]	...
39	[Symbol]	...
40	[Symbol]	...
41	[Symbol]	...
42	[Symbol]	...
43	[Symbol]	...
44	[Symbol]	...
45	[Symbol]	...
46	[Symbol]	...
47	[Symbol]	...
48	[Symbol]	...
49	[Symbol]	...
50	[Symbol]	...

## #1 - Map

## #3 – Explanation of Map Symbols

Geologic Map of Mars

By  
Kenneth L. Tanaka<sup>1</sup>, James A. Skinner, Jr.<sup>1</sup>, James M. Doherty<sup>1</sup>, Rosemarie P. Irwin, III<sup>1</sup>, Eric J. Kalk<sup>1</sup>,  
Cory M. Hartman<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Platt<sup>3</sup>, Gregory S. McKeown<sup>4</sup>, and Tracy M. Hill<sup>5</sup>

2014

# WORK FLOW: FROM (NASA) PROPOSAL TO (USGS) PAMPHLET

Figure 1 - GIS MAPPING TEMPLATE PREPARATION

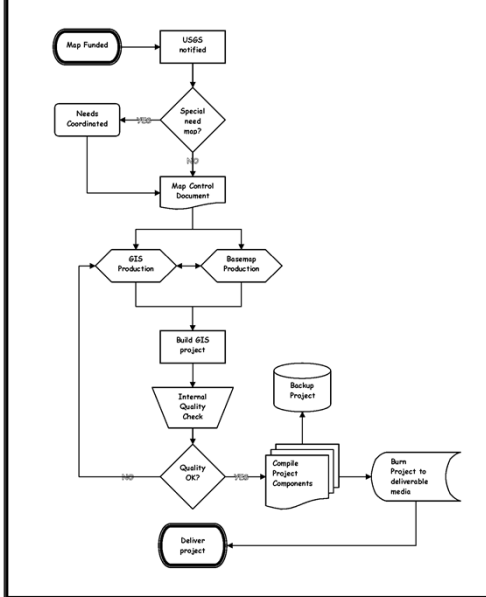


Figure 2 - SUBMISSION AND TECHNICAL REVIEW

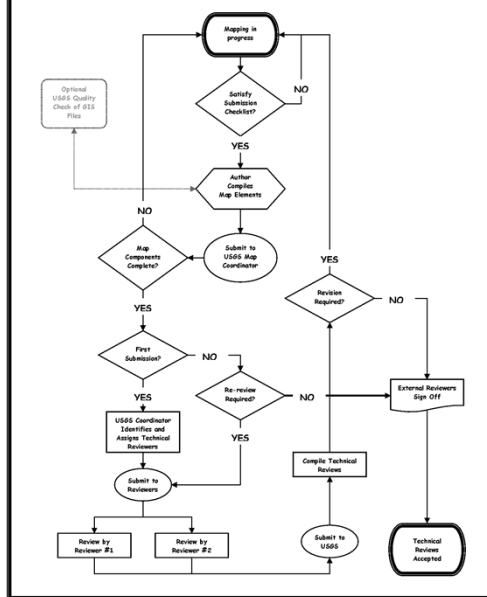
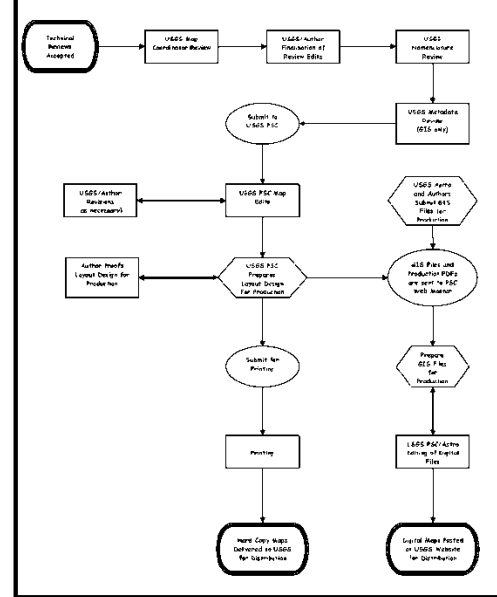


Figure 3 - USGS REVIEW AND PRODUCTION



# WORK FLOW

---

1. Pre-proposal
2. Review and selection
3. NASA notifies USGS of “new starts”
4. Base map and GIS created
5. Mapping by author
6. Submission for review
7. Technical reviews (two, sometimes three)

# WORK FLOW

---

8. Map Coordinator review
  9. Nomenclature review
  10. Map accepted for publication
  11. GIS and map files formatted
  12. Submission to USGS PSC - Menlo Park
  13. Map editing and cartography
  14. Galley proof and final edits
  15. Print, post, distribution
-

# WORK FLOW

---

## Tractable (idealized) timeframe

- Base map/GIS 3 months
  - Mapping 24 months
  - Submission prep 3 months
  - Review and re-submit 6 months
  - Editing and cartography 6 months
  - Production 6 months
- 48 months



# COMMON DEVIATIONS FROM THE WORK FLOW

---

- Multiple programs funding maps
  - Multiple notices of “new starts”
  - Potentially over-commits USGS
  - NASA and USGS coordinate “new starts”
- Map not possible as proposed
  - Base, scale, projection not possible, not considered
  - Encourage pre-proposal contact
  - Proposer, reviewer, and program officer awareness

# COMMON DEVIATIONS FROM THE WORK FLOW

---

- Scales and bases necessitate adapted approach
  - Solicit community input – PCGMWG/GEMS
  - Encourage USGS contact
- Map submitted after project funds over
  - Attendance at annual PGM meeting for status report
  - Encourage USGS contact
  - Establish a cut-off term for delinquent maps
  - Propose for 4 years

# FUNDING: THE WALTZ

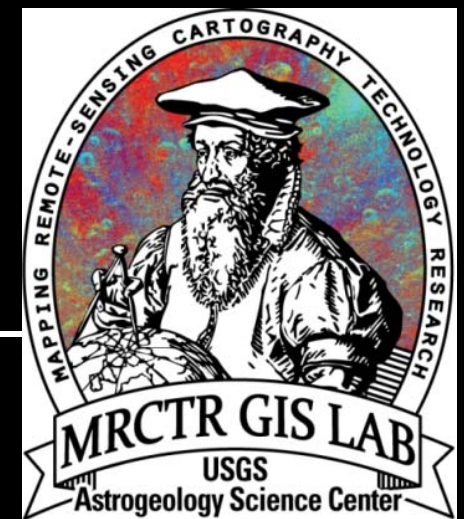
---

- NASA ROSES (to individuals)
  - SSW (Venus, comparative planetology)
  - MDAP
  - LDAP
  - PDART (w/o research emphasis)
  - Others?
- “Cartography” funds (to USGS)
  - Infrastructure and support
  - Historically from PG&G

# FUNDING: USGS GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM SUPPORT

---

- Geologic Map Coordination
  - Image and/or topographic bases
  - Coordination of technical reviews
  - Editing/print production of USGS map
  - Cartographic standards and “best practices”
  - PGM Website maintenance
- MRCTR GIS Lab (PIGWAD)
  - Tools, tutorials, workshops, guest facility
  - Data formatting and packaging
  - GIS web interfaces



# FUNDING: COST BREAKDOWN PER MAP

---

- Preparation – 54 hours
- Support – 74 hours
- Pre-Production – 72 hours
- Production – 278 hours
  - USGS Editing and Cartography – 250 hours
  - Printing and distribution- \$8,000
- TOTAL COSTS (unburdened) – **\$37,000 / map**
  - \$22,000 in technical cartography and printing

# MANAGEMENT: WORKING GROUPS

---

- Planetary Cartography and Geologic Mapping Working Group (PCGMWG)
  - Define and prioritize cartographic needs
  - Represent entire science community
  - Review USGS Cartography proposal
- Geologic Mapping Subcommittee (GEMS)
  - Adopt new approaches
  - Represent geologic mapping community
  - Chair sits on and communicates with PCGMWG

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS: JULY 9, 2014

## LETTER TO PSS, AGs, and NASA

---

- Background
    - Historical funding through PG&G (some DAPs)
    - Reliance on USGS cartographic support (PG&G)
    - One “core” program facilitated communication between NASA program managers and scientists
    - PCGMWG has been intermediary between NASA and science community on technical elements of cartography
    - GEMS intermediary between PCGMWG, NASA, scientists
    - PCGMWG and GEMS ensures standards
    - **Standardized cartographic products (incl. geologic maps) are foundation for scientific analyses and protection of robotic and human assets**
-

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS: JULY 9, 2014

## LETTER TO PSS, AGs, and NASA

---

- Concerns
    - Re-structured NASA R&A programs separate geologic mapping-related proposals from the program that provides infrastructure and support
    - No single point of contact at NASA
    - Will PCGMWG and GEMS remain in existence as critical intermediary between research community and NASA?
    - Where will PCGMWG be “located”, who from NASA will lead representation, and how will institutional knowledge be transferred?
    - How will NASA continue to be informed about critical cartographic infrastructure related to science and exploration?
-



# COMMUNITY CONCERNS: JULY 9, 2014

## LETTER TO PSS, AGs, and NASA

---

- Recommendations
  - Designate a NASA program manager as the lead representative to the planetary cartography and geologic mapping community
  - Notify USGS of geologic mapping “new starts”
  - Match (and coordinate) level of “new starts” from each of the various NASA R&A programs with USGS
  - Ensure DAPs include sufficient new funds and knowledgeable panel members to accommodate evaluation of geologic mapping-related science proposals
  - Create a Planetary Cartography and Geologic Mapping Analysis Group, or equivalent

# CONCLUSION: MAPS ARE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

---

- Short- and long-range planning maintains health of infrastructure
  - Technology (hardware and software)
  - Human capital
  - Community resource
- Fundamental reliance on “standardized” mission information
  - Allows community to speak the same language (even if they don’t know it)
- Requires collaboration, cooperation, and community oversight
  - Development (carrot)
  - Adherence (stick)

# The New York Times

Brand New Look at the Face of Mars

## POPULAR SCIENCE

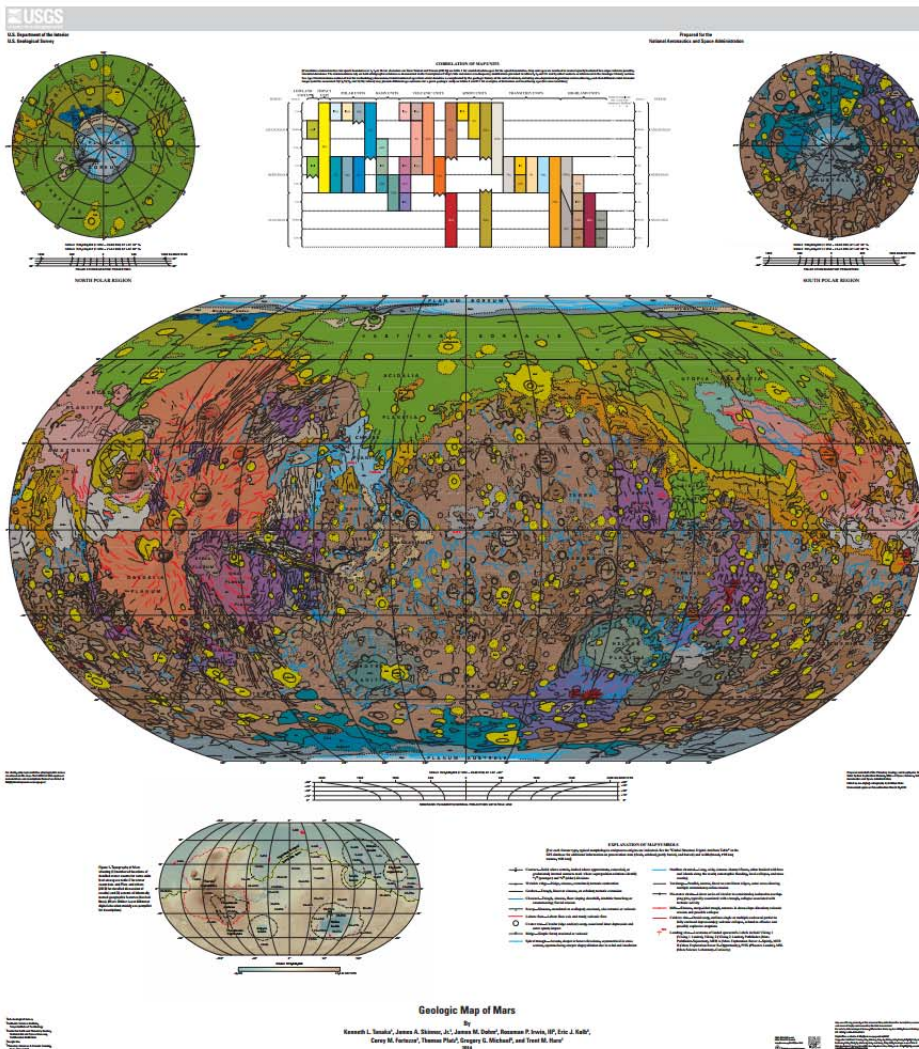
Big Pic: A Planet-Wide Map Of Martian Geology

# The Washington Post

Scientists have compiled the most comprehensive map of Mars we've ever seen

## SCIENCE WORLD REPORT

Most Detailed Map of Mars Reveals the Features of the Red Planet's Surface



**Geologic Map of Mars**  
Legend

Unit	Description
1	... (Detailed description of unit 1)
2	... (Detailed description of unit 2)
3	... (Detailed description of unit 3)
4	... (Detailed description of unit 4)
5	... (Detailed description of unit 5)
6	... (Detailed description of unit 6)
7	... (Detailed description of unit 7)
8	... (Detailed description of unit 8)
9	... (Detailed description of unit 9)
10	... (Detailed description of unit 10)
11	... (Detailed description of unit 11)
12	... (Detailed description of unit 12)
13	... (Detailed description of unit 13)
14	... (Detailed description of unit 14)
15	... (Detailed description of unit 15)
16	... (Detailed description of unit 16)
17	... (Detailed description of unit 17)
18	... (Detailed description of unit 18)
19	... (Detailed description of unit 19)
20	... (Detailed description of unit 20)
21	... (Detailed description of unit 21)
22	... (Detailed description of unit 22)
23	... (Detailed description of unit 23)
24	... (Detailed description of unit 24)
25	... (Detailed description of unit 25)
26	... (Detailed description of unit 26)
27	... (Detailed description of unit 27)
28	... (Detailed description of unit 28)
29	... (Detailed description of unit 29)
30	... (Detailed description of unit 30)
31	... (Detailed description of unit 31)
32	... (Detailed description of unit 32)
33	... (Detailed description of unit 33)
34	... (Detailed description of unit 34)
35	... (Detailed description of unit 35)
36	... (Detailed description of unit 36)
37	... (Detailed description of unit 37)
38	... (Detailed description of unit 38)
39	... (Detailed description of unit 39)
40	... (Detailed description of unit 40)
41	... (Detailed description of unit 41)
42	... (Detailed description of unit 42)
43	... (Detailed description of unit 43)
44	... (Detailed description of unit 44)
45	... (Detailed description of unit 45)
46	... (Detailed description of unit 46)
47	... (Detailed description of unit 47)
48	... (Detailed description of unit 48)
49	... (Detailed description of unit 49)
50	... (Detailed description of unit 50)



Prepared for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### Geologic Map of Mars

By Kenneth L. Tanaka, James A. Skinner, Jr., James M. Soder, Rossman P. Irwin, III, Eric J. Kolb, Corey M. Fortezzo, Thomas Platz, Gregory S. Michael, and Trent M. Hare

Pamphlet to accompany Scientific Investigations Map 3292

View of the northern part of the western hemisphere of Mars. Left half shows a color elevation, shaded relief view highlighting the immense shield of the Tharsis volcanoes. Right half shows a true color view of the vast Valles Marineris and Kasei Valles canyon systems, which connect to the dark basin of Chryse Planitia at upper right. Image data from NASA/JPL.

2014  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**