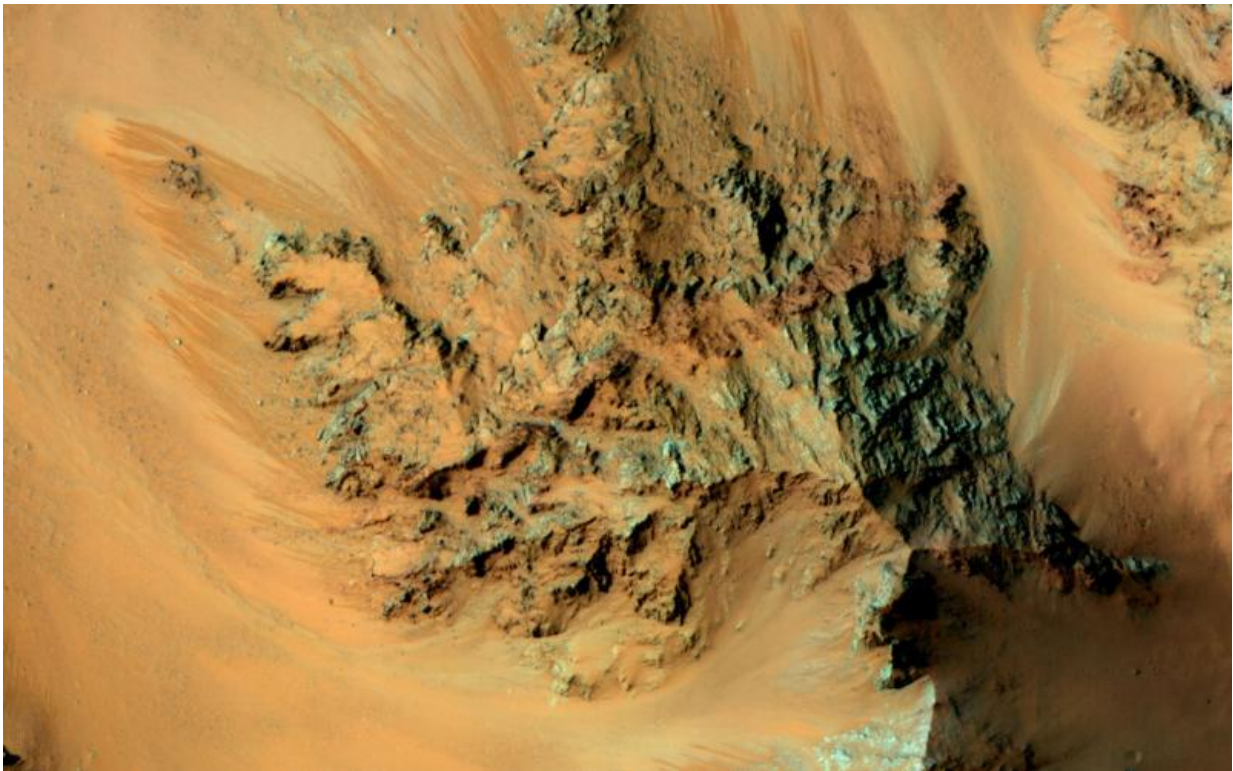


NASA image: Seasonal flows in the central mountains of Hale Crater

April 10 2015



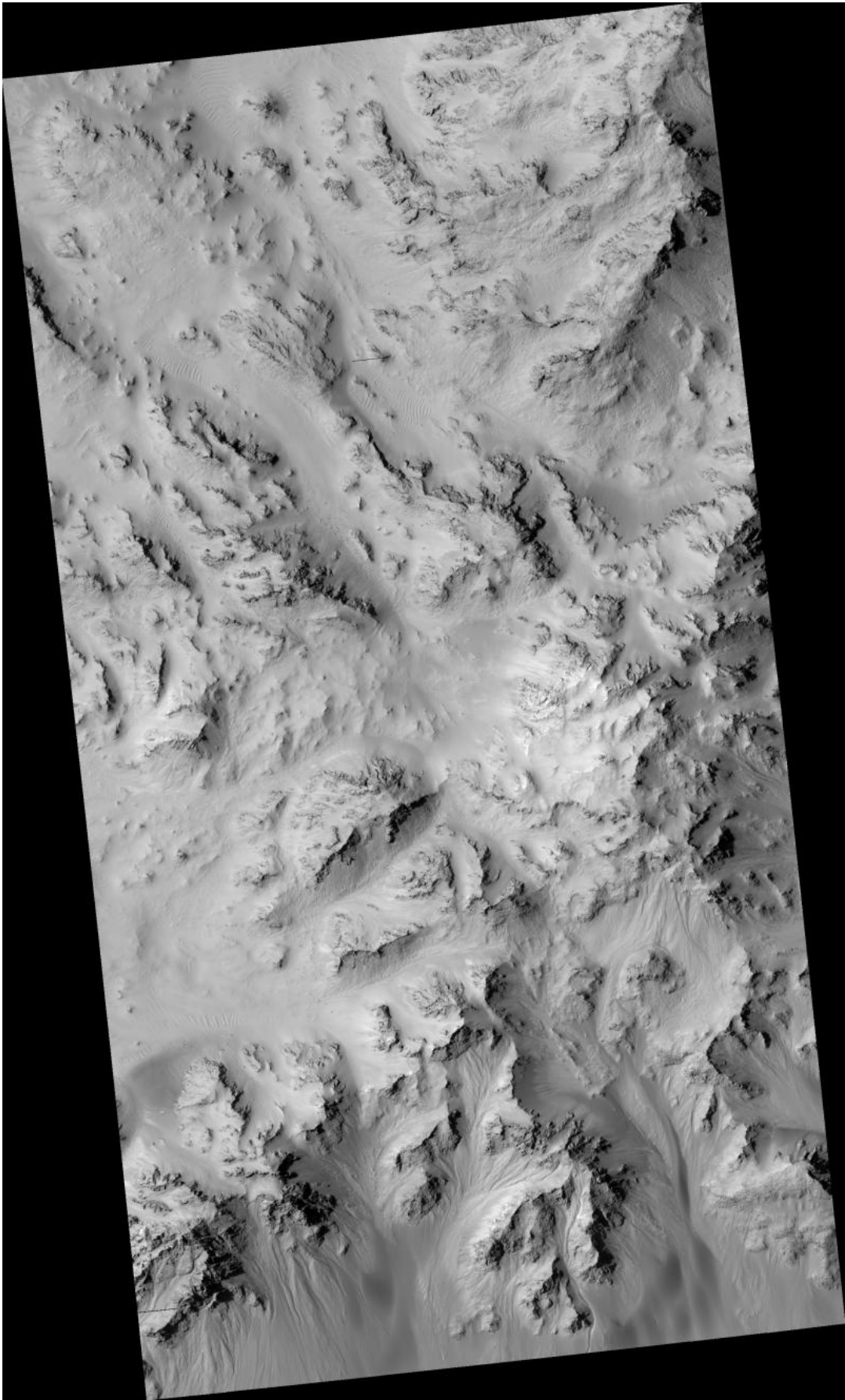
Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona

Recurring slope lineae (RSL) are active flows on warm Martian slopes that might be caused by seeping water. One of the most active sites known on Mars is in the central peaks (uplifted mountains of deep bedrock) of Hale Crater.

This image shows RSL extending downhill from bedrock cliffs, mostly towards the northwest (upper left). This image was acquired in middle summer when RSL are most active in the southern mid latitudes.

The RSL in Hale have an unusually "reddish" color compared to most RSL, perhaps due to oxidized iron compounds, like rust. Since HiRISE color is shifted to infra-red wavelengths, they are actually especially bright the near-infrared just beyond the range of human vision.

The Hale RSL are also unusual because they began activity much earlier than most RSL sites in the middle southern latitudes, and were well-developed in the early spring (see [ESP 038073 1440](#)). If seeping water causes RSL in Hale crater, it must be rich in salts to lower its freezing point significantly below the [freezing point](#) of pure water.



Map projected

Provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Citation: NASA image: Seasonal flows in the central mountains of Hale Crater (2015, April 10)
retrieved 3 May 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2015-04-image-seasonal-central-mountains-hale.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.