



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Mars 2020 Landing Site Workshop

Consistency Check

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May 16, 2014



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Rationale

Mars 2020 Landing Site Workshop

- The 2020 Mars Science Definition Team (SDT) identified a number of landing sites, based on previous deliberations (e.g., MSL site selection or E2E-iSAG) and on their own considerations, that were potentially candidates for the Mars 2020 mission.
 - Specific listing of ~60 sites (Appendix 6 of the SDT Report)
 - Discussion of MSL selection results and the E2E-iSAG engineering reference list.
- Several of these sites have had no advocates in this workshop
 - E.g., Gale Crater, which the SDT Report said (Finding 8-4) “merits consideration...but, thus far...not pre-selection”
- There are 2 reasons why it makes sense to understand the difference between the collection of sites advocated here and those discussed previously:
 - We want to be consistent & don’t want to overlook potentially valuable sites at this stage
 - Does the site not address 2020 Science Objectives? => *Let’s document this.*
 - The site does address 2020 Science Objectives, but there are far better sites? => *Rank it accordingly.*
 - Is the site so well-known that it is not a priority for additional information? => *Don’t forget it.*
 - Some of the sites not on the list have the best coverage to date. If we lose our current capabilities to characterize and certify sites, the dynamics of balancing science potential and risk will change significantly.
 - A factor to think about when considering the ranking of sites that were advocated, as well.



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List of “Orphan” Sites

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- Gale Crater
- Holden
- Meridiani