

The MEPAG Goals Document Major Revision 2019

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Timeline

Expect draft to community before Holidays

Feedback due in late January

Final version released at LPSC (March 2020)

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Initial Revision Plans

- Goal I (Life):
 - Removing the distinction between extinct and extant Mars life
 - Possibly making implementation strategy less detailed
 - Objective IA. Search for evidence of life in environments that have a high potential for habitability and expression/preservation of biosignatures
 - Objective IB. Assess the extent of abiotic organic chemical evolution
- Goal II (Climate):
 - Shortening & reorganizing prose
 - Making prioritization scheme consistent with the rest of the document
 - General update of science case, particularly in Objectives A & C
 - Retain emphasis on in situ meteorology



Initial Revision Plans

- Goal III (Geology):
 - Re-structure of Objective IIIA. (i.e., Geologic Record) to focus on specific, actionable Strategic Knowledge Gaps
 - Minor updates for Objectives IIIB. (Mars Interior) & IIIC .(Moons)
- Goal IV (Human Exploration):
 - Significant rework throughout
 - Atmospheric knowledge requirements changed by switch to supersonic retro-propulsion
 - Changes to Planetary Protection
 - ISRU plans modified by recent buried ice & hydrate mineral discoveries
 - Impact of MSL's radiation measurements