

Legal Issues Related to Space Exploration (13)
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LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO PROTECTING LUNAR ARTIFACTS

Abstract

The advent of NewSpace, Google Lunar X-Prize and the discovery of lunar minerals of potential value to private companies has prompted concerns among historians and other stakeholders regarding the future fate of the Apollo era lunar artifacts, culminating with the release, on July 20, 2011, of “NASA’s Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts”. This paper intends to address the legal status of the lunar artifacts and the areas surrounding them, and the legal implications of NASA’s 2011 recommendations.