

Table 2. Late Quaternary stratigraphy (exclusive of volcanics) and lake history in the southern Carson Desert, 59-87

Time	Unit no.	Formations and members		Soils	Description	Max. exposed thickness (ft)	Exposed altitude range (ft)	Lake history recorded ^{1/}		
		Deep-lacustrine units	Subaerial and shallow-lake units							
present										
Late post-Lake Lahontan shallow-lake and desiccation interval (Fallon time)	7f	Fallon formation	upper member	Young lake and inter-lake unit	Eolian sand and alluvium inter-tonguing with shallow-lake sand to clay and tufa.	10	3865-3919	2 main lake cycles, preceded, separated, and followed by desiccations; lake maxima at 3919 ft (both cycles) in Carson Lake area, and 3905 and 3890 ft in northern area.		
	7e			3d lake unit	Shallow-lake sand to clay, minor tufa.	5	3870-3922	Third post-Lahontan lake cycle, max. at 3922 ft in Carson Lake area, 3915 ft in northern area.		
	7d			2d inter-lake unit	"L" Drain soil	Eolian sand, alluvial sand and silt; very weak soil.	5	3880-3922	Desiccation, essentially complete.	
	7c			2d lake unit		Shallow-lake sand to clay, minor tufa.	6	3870-3930	Second post-Lahontan Lake cycle, max. at 3930 ft.	
	7b			1st inter-lake unit		Eolian sand, alluvial sand and silt.	4	3900-3930	Desiccation, probably nearly complete.	
	7a	1st lake unit		Shallow-lake sand to clay, minor gravel and tufa.	6	3870-3950	First post-Lahontan lake cycle, max. at 3950 ft.			
Early post-Lake Lahontan desiccation interval (Turupah-Toyeh time)	6b			Toyeh soil	Gray Desert soil, moderately developed, widespread.	1.5	above 3900	Major post-Lake Lahontan desiccation, complete.		
	6a			Turupah fm.	Eolian sand, widespread, and alluvial sand and gravel, local. Contemporaneous disconformity records deflation as low as 3865 ft.	30	above 3875			
Late Lake Lahontan deep-lake interval (Sehoo time)	5e	Sehoo formation	upper mbr.		Lacustrine sand to clay, minor gravel and tufa; fairly widespread.	16	3875-3990	Fifth Lahontan lake cycle, max. at 3990 ft.		
	5d				unnamed incipient soil	Colluvial sand to clay, swamp muck; very weak soil.	3	3900-3990	Temporary lake recession, to at least 3900 ft.	
	5c			dendritic mbr.		Lake gravel to clay, dendritic and lithoid tufa; widespread.	25	3865-4190	Fourth Lahontan lake cycle, max. at 4190 ft.	
	5b			thinolite mbr.	middle mbr.	unnamed incipient soil	Local thinolite tufa, lake silt and clay; alluvial sand and gravel, eolian sand, very weak soil, all rare.	5	Subaerial sediments, 3990-4190; lake sediments, 3890-4000	Temporary lake recession, to at least 3990 ft.
	5a			lower mbr.	lower mbr.		Lake gravel to clay, lithoid, cellular, and coralline tufa; widespread.	50	3865-4370	Third Lahontan lake cycle; max. at 4370 ft.
Mid-Lake Lahontan desiccation interval (Wyemaha-Churchill time)	4b	Lahontan Valley			Churchill soil	6	above 3920	Major lake recession and intermittent desiccation;		
	4a			Wyemaha fm.	Eolian sand and alluvial sand and gravel, intertonguing with shallow-lake sand to clay.	100	subaerial sediments above 3880; lake sediments, 3865-3990	lakes were shallow and temporary.		
Early Lake Lahontan deep-lake interval (Betza time)	3c	Betza fm.			Lake gravel, minor sand to clay and tufa; local.	40	3940-4340	Second Lahontan lake cycle, max. at about 4340 ft.		
	3b		"Colluvium and alluvium of Betza age	unnamed incipient soil	Colluvial and alluvial gravel and sand, very weak soil; rare.	3	4200-4340	Temporary lake recession; exposures along lower Truckee R. above Nixon suggest lake fell at least to 4100 ft.		
	3a				Lake gravel, minor lake sand to clay and tufa; local.	50	3950-4380	First Lahontan lake cycle max. at 4380 ft is highest of Lake Lahontan.		
Late pre-Lake Lahontan recession interval (Paiute-Cocoon time)	2b	Paiute-Cocoon			Cocoon soil	15	above 3960	Major lake recession or desiccation; no lakes above 3960 ft.		
	2a			Paiute fm.	Alluvial and colluvial gravel, local.	40	above 3960			
Pre-Lake Lahontan deep-lake interval	1	pre-Lake Lahontan lake sediments			Lacustrine gravel and sand, one exposure.	20	4020	Deep lake, to altitude of at least 4020 ft. ^{1/}		

1/ Present lowest part of basin floor is 3865 ft altitude. Quaternary sedimentation has progressively raised the floor, and during late pre-Lake Lahontan time the floor probably was several hundred feet lower than now.