



KOYOODE TUKADU:  
PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

Pyramid Lake is the site of some of the Earth's most spectacular tufa deposits. Tufa is a rock composed of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) that forms at the mouth of a spring, from lake water, or from a mixture of spring and lake water. The lake contains salts and minerals that concentrate, forming tufa.



Most of the tufas were formed between 26,000 and 13,000 years ago when the climate was so moist that Pyramid Lake was joined, over mountain passes, to lakes in nearby sub basins. Pluvial lakes, such as Lake Lahontan, formed during this wetter climate. These lakes are transitional in nature, and today, many are gone or exist only as remnants. Pyramid Lake is one of seven water bodies that coalesced to form pluvial Lake Lahontan. At its peak, Lake Lahontan was 281 m deep (compared to 106 m in 2004) and covered 22,800  $\text{km}^2$ , a surface area slightly larger than present-day Lake Ontario.

Tufa Rock