

Review of: "Lake Bonneville and the Wasatch Fault – new theories and new paradigms yield insights into present-day hazards in other regions of the world"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Although the work presented by Richard Spedden could become significant and provides an interesting and refreshing take on a subject that has been long accepted, I feel like many of the proposed invoked interpretations and theories are not supported, or at least the references to support these are missing. There is a continuous confusion between facts and ideas throughout the text, which makes it hard to distinguish them. I also have my doubts on some of the mentioned processes (e.g. do surges really wipe out lake bottom sediments, and not just the surficial ones? see for example Vermassen et al. 2023, Sedimentology).

Also the structure of the work does not allow the reader to get a decent idea of all the factors at play. Results, interpretation and methods are mixed with background info and reviews on the current interpretations, which makes it hard to follow. To me, this work reads more like a fieldwork report rather than an actual scientific publication, in structure as well as in writing style. So I suggest to reform the work into a more classic intro - methods - results - discussion layout, which will also significantly shorten the text (highly advisable if you want to achieve a bigger impact), rephrase the wordings into a more academic writing style, and perform a thorough literature review on the matter so that the eventual manuscript is supported by references.

Despite these comments, I do see merit in revisiting some of the long-lasting and established interpretations for the Lake Bonneville floods, but at this stage more (supported) research would be required to really change our perspective on the matter.

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