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Review of *Deep Time and the Texas High Plains:  
History and Geology* by Paul H. Carlson

J. Brett Cruse

*Texas Historical Commission*

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provides detailed descriptions of each forest's many special features and attractions. These give the size, location, facilities, and history of each forest, as well as travel directions and where to find more information. Alternative routes highlighting sites and features provide options for the traveler. State maps give a general idea of a forest's general geographical location, but a comprehensive regional map with key cities and highways would have been very helpful.

In most cases, the underlining geology of the region is explained in a way to hold the interests of both the amateur geologist and the more advanced student. Significant physical features are described in such detail that you can almost feel yourself climbing that bluff or floating down that river. Wildlife receives equal treatment. Hints as to where to go to see elusive species give a sense that Mohlenbrock has stood in that very spot and observed that mother bear and cubs or that wolf pack. His appreciation of the beauty of these places is obvious and should inspire readers to undertake their own explorations.

As interesting as the geology and wildlife are, the description of each forest's native flora and vegetation makes Mohlenbrock's commitments as a botanist and ecologist clear. From the pinkish tint of microscopic algae growing on the surface of snow to magnificent tall trees, Mohlenbrock is true to his roots and explores in depth the mysteries of the exciting world of plants. For the amateur botanist this is a must read. For those trained in botany, Mohlenbrock provides the incentive to get in a truck to visit these majestic woods and then walk off the beaten track to find those rare plants usually seen only in books or on dried herbarium sheets. I certainly plan to see more of these forests in the years ahead, using *This Land* to guide me. **James R. Brandle**, *School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*.

**Deep Time and the Texas High Plains: History and Geology.** By Paul H. Carlson. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2005. xvii + 141 pp. Figures, tables, photographs, maps, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

This brief book is a history of the Lubbock Lake Landmark site, a nationally recognized archeological site located on the Texas southern High Plains on the north side of the city of Lubbock. The location has been the subject of intense investigations by archaeologists since 1939. Paul H. Carlson, a noted author and professor of history at Texas Tech University, states that his purpose was

to go back through what John McPhee called "deep time" to show how the Lubbock Lake location was formed and was used by humans through time. He accomplishes this in five chapters.

Written for a general audience, topics are covered briefly and succinctly in a very readable style. Chapter 1 begins with the creation of the universe some 10 to 15 billion years ago. Earth's geologic history, including the development and movement of land masses, the rise and extinction of dinosaurs, the formation of the Llano Estacado, and the development of the late Pleistocene climate on the southern High Plains are all recounted here.

Chapters 2, 3, and 4 consider the Paleoindian Period (10,000+ BCE-6,500 BCE), Archaic Period (6,500 BCE-1 CE), and what Carlson refers to as the Modern Period (1-1875 CE), respectively, on the Southern Plains. The final chapter focuses on the Anglo settlement of the region, the growth of Lubbock, and the archeological investigations conducted at the Lubbock Lake site. Again, these chapters are brief and cover the general characteristics distinguishing each of the cultural and temporal periods.

For the most part Carlson does a good job boiling down the often confusing array of taxonomic labels archeologists have used to classify the various groups and complexes within each time period. He describes methodically how the various cultural groups survived, their likely social organization, the animals they hunted, the climate, and how each of these topics is represented at the Lubbock Lake site. In his desire to present a large amount of information to the casual reader, however, Carlson oversimplifies some events that led to culture change on the Southern Plains. For example, the Antelope Creek villagers occupied the Canadian River Valley from about 1200 to 1450, at which time they abruptly abandoned the area. It has been postulated that drought conditions, invading forces, or both were the primary reasons behind the abandonment, but neither theory has been proven and is still a matter of debate among archeologists working in the region. Carlson states that it was Apache groups of the Tierra Blanca complex that pushed out the Antelope Creek groups and established themselves in the region. This might be what happened to the Antelope Creek people, but it has certainly not been proven; in fact, the Tierra Blanca complex is poorly known in the area, with only a few sites identified that belong to the complex.

Despite a few minor overgeneralizations that the more serious researcher will find bothersome, the book is a well-written and readable history that the casual reader will find informative and satisfying. **J. Brett Cruse**, *Texas Historical Commission*.