

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and  
Social Sciences

Great Plains Studies, Center for

---

2009

## Book Review: *It's a Long Way from Llano: The Journey of a Wildlife Biologist* By James G. Teer

Fred S. Guthery  
Oklahoma State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsresearch>



Part of the [Other International and Area Studies Commons](#)

---

Guthery, Fred S., "Book Review: *It's a Long Way from Llano: The Journey of a Wildlife Biologist* By James G. Teer" (2009). *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*. 1023.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsresearch/1023>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

the river that was part of the natural world of his youth and influenced Teer to become a wildlife biologist.

At the beginning of the conservation movement in America, wildlife biologists were male, Caucasian, and avid hunters; that is simply the way it was. This circumstance held sway from the time of Aldo Leopold into at least the 1960s, when values began to change. "Wildlife biology, once largely confined to game animals, now emphasizes all species, huntable or not, and ecosystem management has replaced species management," Teer writes.

*Llano* gives one a sense of a coda for a game-oriented conservation movement that started in the 1920s and 1930s and has largely run its course early in the Third Millennium. Teer's experiences, friendships, and values well reflect the zeitgeist of wildlife conservation and management in America during that era. **Fred S. Guthery**, *Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University*.

**It's a Long Way from Llano: The Journey of a Wildlife Biologist.** By James G. Teer. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2008. xii + 152 pp. Photographs, references, index. \$29.95 cloth.

James G. Teer's career in wildlife science, management, and policy has spanned a half century. During that time he worked as a biologist for the now Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, chaired the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University, and directed the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas. He also became involved in international conservation issues in Africa, India, South America, and Russia. Teer's lengthy and diverse career serves as a natural foundation for his autobiographical musings in *Llano*.

The book has eleven chapters. Subject matter includes biography (he had a deadbeat dad), commentary, philosophy, and natural history. The biography will be fascinating to those of us who know Teer and worked under or with him. The national and international conservation issues—buck-only harvest, great cats, saiga antelope, wildlife management in Africa—will appeal to a more general audience. Teer aims the book at university students in wildlife conservation and management; his experiences and commentary certainly will be useful and informative to this audience.

Although he doesn't address ecological or social issues of the Great Plains per se, the manner in which Teer has encountered and dealt with conservation issues provides history and experience that could inform issue resolution anywhere. The writing is as clear as the San Gabriel River in its pristine state,