

CHOICE

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SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Anthropology

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The following review appeared in the October 2008 issue of CHOICE:

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Frontiers in Colorado Paleoindian archaeology: from the Dent Site to the Rocky Mountains, ed. by Robert H. Brunswig and Bonnie L. Pitblado. University Press of Colorado, 2007. 364p bibl index afp ISBN 9780870818905, \$60.00

Everything you might want to know about Paleoindians in Colorado, in great detail. Beginning with a review of the history of Paleoindian research in the state, one set of chapters analyzes mammoth carcasses and artifacts at the Dent site on the plains of eastern Colorado, and a second set of chapters presents data on Paleoindian sites and their environments in the mountains. The historical overviews stress that archaeologists worked on the plains until late in the 1960s, after which investigations increasingly shifted to the mountains and foothills. It is now clear that mammoths and humans utilized both plains and mountains in the late Pleistocene-early Holocene period, around 11,000 years ago. Phytoliths recovered from mammoth teeth at a kill site show that the same animals moved between these environments, grazing in each. Much of this volume is devoted to methodology, discussing how excavation and recording procedures influence interpretation, and giving pros and cons of choosing between interpretations of particular data. With rich material on environmental reconstructions, the volume will be useful to archaeologists working with paleoclimatological specialists, and those struggling to make something of lithic scatter sites.

Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty. -- A. B. Kehoe, *University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee*