

SOME NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEXAS FOLSOM POINT DATABASE

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ABSTRACT

In a recent study, Largent et al. (1991) documented a total of 329 Folsom projectile points from 86 localities in Texas. An update by Perttula (1993) presented information on seven additional points from six east Texas localities. Since the publication of the original study, the Texas Folsom point database has been continually enhanced and refined. Currently, 345 points from 102 localities are known.

Keywords: Paleoindians; Folsom; Texas.

INTRODUCTION

A recent study by Largent et al. (1991) yielded data on 329 Folsom projectile points from 86 localities in 57 Texas counties. More recent work by Perttula (1993) has produced information on seven additional points from six new localities and one previously recorded locality, all of them in east Texas. Perttula suggests that the minimal usage of this region derives from its lack of attractiveness to the Folsom peoples, whose experience was in the more open, arid regions to the west.

In addition to Perttula's data, further research has added a total of nine Folsom points and ten localities to the Texas Folsom point database. The count now stands at 345 points from 102 localities in 63 counties (Figs. 1 and 2). This brief note is intended as a generalized update to the original study.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FOLSOM BY REGION

As before (Largent et al. 1991), the distribution of Folsom points in Texas will be discussed in relationship to the geographic regions defined by Suhm et al. (1954).

Recent publications by Amick et al. (1989) and Hofman et al. (1990) indicate the presence of

21 Folsom points at the Shifting Sands site in Winkler County, rather than the 20 originally reported (Largent et al. 1991). This brings the total for the Panhandle/Plains region to 125. Similarly, Perttula (1993) documents the presence of a third point at Horn Shelter in Bosque County, and C. K. Chandler (personal communication, 1989) has provided information on new points from Bexar and Wilson Counties. Further, reinterpretation of the data has resulted in the deletion of three Mills County points from the sample, leaving the total for the Central Texas region at 52. Single point finds are now known for Dallas and Hunt counties (Peter and McGregor 1988; Perttula 1993), bringing the North-Central Texas total to 11. In addition, Perttula has documented the presence of four other Folsom finds in East Texas, one each in Camp, Delta, Anderson, and Henderson counties. The East Texas total now stands at ten Folsom points. Finally, the Southwest Texas total has risen from 29 to 38. One additional point is now known from each of the following counties: Atascosa, Frio, Hidalgo, Maverick, and McMullen (C. K. Chandler, personal communication, 1992). One Folsom-like point (House 1974) was dropped from the Live Oak County sample, and two additional points were added (C. K. Chandler, personal communication, 1992). Three points were added

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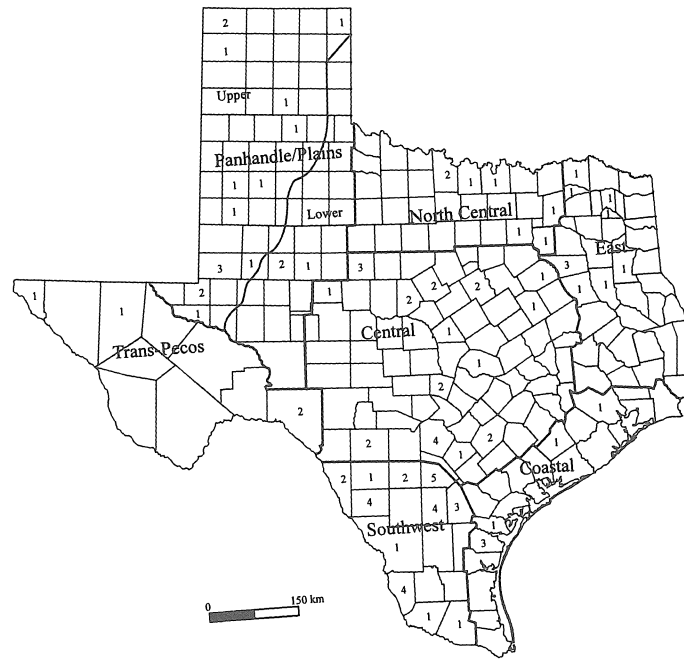


Figure 1. The distribution of Folsom localities in Texas.

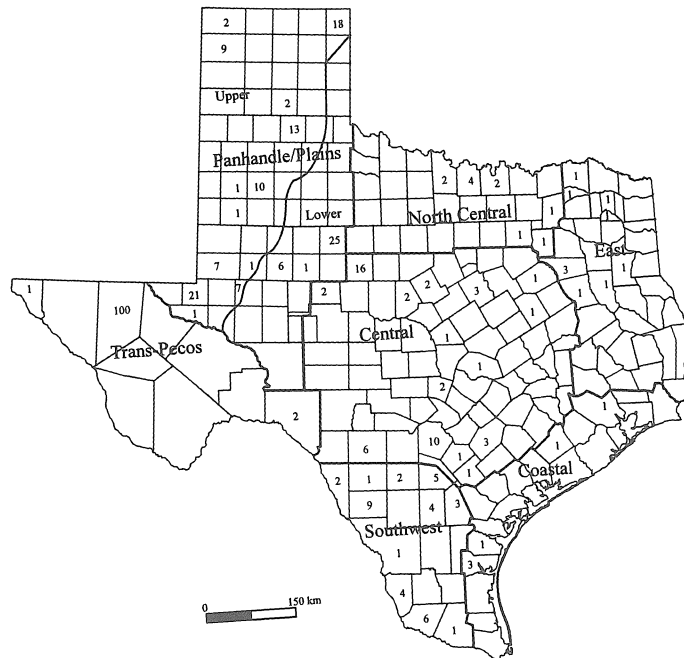


Figure 2. The distribution of Folsom points in Texas.

for Zapata County (C. K. Chandler, personal communication, 1992). The totals for the Trans-Pecos and Coastal Regions of Texas remain unchanged at this time, at 103 and six respectively.

RAW MATERIAL TYPES

Raw material data was not provided for many of the 16 new points in the sample. However, material types are documented for eight of the points. The new Henderson County point from the Lake Palestine locality is made from Alibates agatized dolomite, a material which outcrops near Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle (Pertula 1993). The new Bexar and Wilson County points are made of brown chert and the new Atascosa County point is definitely made of Edwards chert (C. K. Chandler, personal communications, 1989, 1992). The point from the Cobb-Pool Site in Dallas County (Peter and McGregor 1988; Pertula 1993) is made of a high-quality dark gray chert from Central Texas, while the Hidalgo and McMullen County points are made of tan chert. One of the new Live Oak County points is made of brown agate (C. K. Chandler, personal communication, 1992). These observations are consistent with the use of high-quality cryptocrystalline lithic materials for manufacturing Folsom points, a trend noted in the previous study (Largent et al. 1991).

CONCLUSIONS

Recent finds as well as reexamination of existing artifacts have added a total of 16 specimens to the Texas Folsom point database published by Largent et al. in 1991. Previously unrecorded points were documented for all the geographic regions in Texas (e.g., Suhm et al. 1954), with the exception of the Trans-Pecos and Coastal regions. Currently, 345 Folsom points are known from 102 localities in 63 counties. This expansion of the Folsom point database should aid future re-

searchers in better understanding the Folsom occupation of Texas and the Plains.

Acknowledgments

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