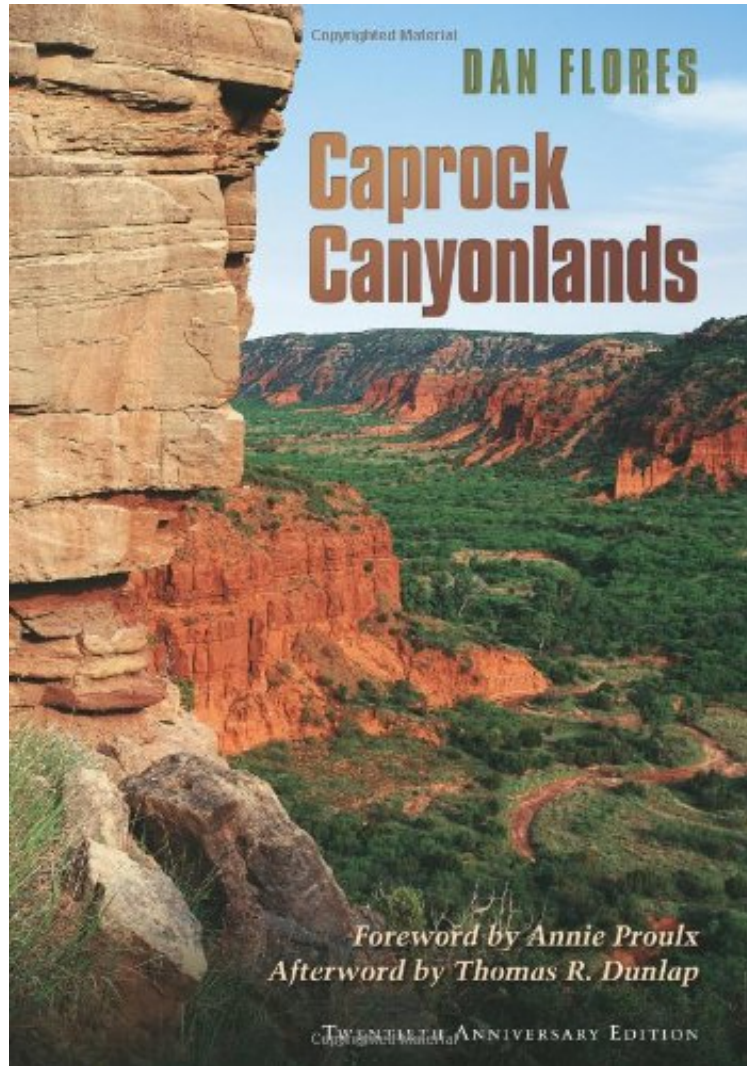


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Caprock Canyonlands: Journeys into the Heart of the Southern Plains, Twentieth Anniversary Edition (Environmental History Series)

Dan Flores

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Dan Flores : Caprock Canyonlands: Journeys into the Heart of the Southern Plains, Twentieth Anniversary Edition (Environmental History Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Caprock Canyonlands: Journeys into the Heart of the Southern Plains, Twentieth Anniversary Edition (Environmental History Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on the canyonlands and high plains
By J. Braswell
This is an excellent book on the Escarpments and High Plains of the Texas Panhandle and Eastern New Mexico. Dan Flores lives in the area and has studied the geology and history of the country for many years and talks about it like it is his back yard. You can tell he is very comfortable and knowledgeable about the area. It is a very unique area with a rich history. I have read about the Comanches and Kiowas and their conflicts with the Spanish and the European Settlers for years. We are planning a trip to the region to visit some of the historical places that shaped the culture. This book adds a new perspective to the history of the area. The additional knowledge of the development of the land forms and geology of the area makes it much more interesting. Until now it was lot of seperate locations and events that happened in the Panhandle area. I see now how it is all linked together and there is a system of canyons and rivers and high plains where societies lived and competed for resources. It is a very well written and enlightening book. There are some good maps and illustrations that make it easy to understand.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book about the Caprock of Texas
By AbileneHiker
I really liked this book. It gave me everything I was looking for with respect to geology background, history, and biology. The author is very knowledgeable about flora and fauna and his enthusiasm compels me to learn more. It also confirmed for me why I am enchanted by the canyons in the Llano Estacado.
In one place, the book switches from being a great tribute to Caprock Canyonlands, to a Harlequin romance about two hikers in a secluded spot that can't control their passions. It seemed a little like locker room bragging and a bit out of place.
That aside, this is a great book and I couldn't put it down. The author is passionate about the area and helped me to understand why I love it so much as well. The author's style is for the most part enjoyable and somewhat reminiscent of Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*.
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. America's missing National Park -- a lament and a dream
By S. J. Snyder
That's the driving spirit behind this wonderful book -- Texas' missing National Park.
At one time, in the early 1930s, the National Park Service was looking at a national park at least 150,000 acres, and as much as 1 million acres, for Texas' Panhandle caprock. That's right, 1 million acres -- 1,600 square miles or so.
What happened? Don't blame the Depression; the NPS bought land in Texas at the tail end of the Depression to create Big Bend.
Lack of political will and a dime-store solution on the cheap are what happened.
After helping the state of Texas create Palo Duro Canyon State Park -- around 15,000 acres, not 150,000, let alone 1 million -- the NPS simply didn't carry that through. So all we have today is Palo Duro and another dime-sized state park, Caprock Canyons (Copper Breaks is not a canyon, per se, and it's not in the Caprock).
Flores, who once had a rough-it/hippie house in Yellow House Canyon, on one of the Caprock forks of the Brazos River, knows this land intimately and personally -- including the vast majority of the Caprock still in private hands.
Read this intimate account of what many of you may be missing who haven't visited either of the two state parks in Texas' Panhandle, and for those of you who have been to Palo Duro but not explored the rest of the Caprock, see what could have been -- and what Flores dreams still could be.

Twenty years ago, Dan Flores's *Caprock Canyonlands* became one of the first books ever to treat the flat, arid landscape of the southern High Plains as a place of uncommon beauty and enduring spirit. Now a classic, *Caprock Canyonlands* has been favorably compared by readers to the work of such icons of nature and environmental writing as William Bartram, Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Henry David Thoreau. Containing the author's stunning photography, a foreword by Pulitzer Prizewinning author Annie Proulx, author of *"Brokeback Mountain,"* an afterword by environmental historian Thomas R. Dunlap, and a new preface by the author, this twentieth anniversary edition makes available to a new generation of readers Flores's knowledgeable and heartfelt narrative of the canyons and badlands of eastern New Mexico and western Oklahoma and Texas. He evokes the history and natural history that shaped the region, drawing upon geology, mythology, botany, art, history and natural history that shaped the region, drawing upon geology, mythology, botany, art, history, and literature. "*Caprock Canyonlands* keeps its place on our bookshelves . . . for its exploration of a deeply human activity: the search for the beauty of the earth, the depth and strength of our ties to it, and the ways those appear in a particular landscape . . . here illuminated by love."--from the afterword by Thomas R. Dunlap

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About the Author
Dan Flores is A. B. Hammond Professor of Western History at the University of Montana. He serves as general editor of the *Environmental History* series at Texas AM University Press and is the author or coauthor of seven books, including *Journal of an Indian Trader: Anthony Glass and the Texas Trading Frontier, 1790-1810*, published by Texas AM University Press in 1985. Flores received his PhD from Texas AM University and currently divides his time between Missoula, Montana, and Santa Fe.