Cache Diversity on the Southern Plains

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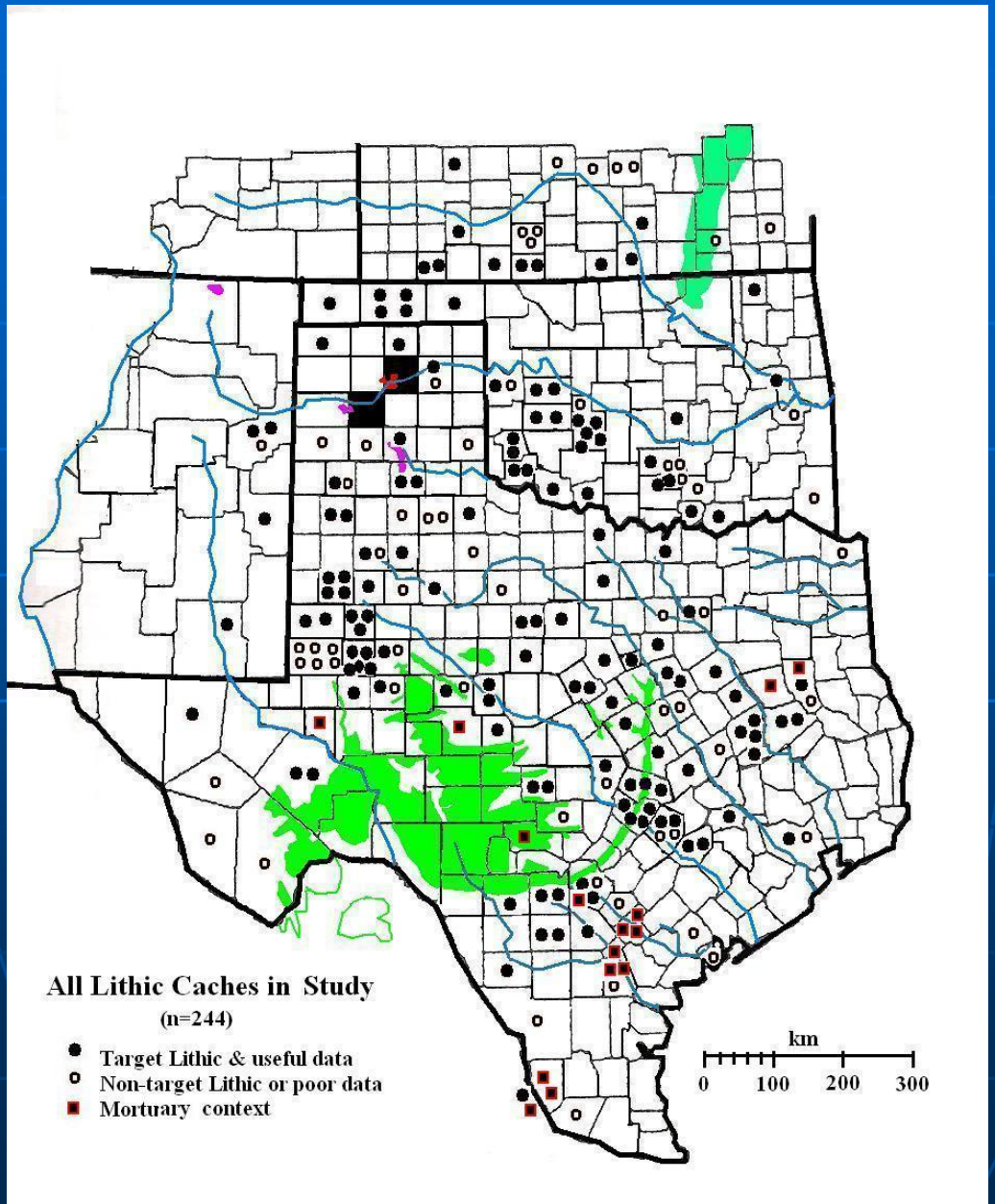
Distribution of Reported Caches from the Southern Plains



N= 244 as of Oct. 2009

Distribution of Edwards Formation and Chert Exposures

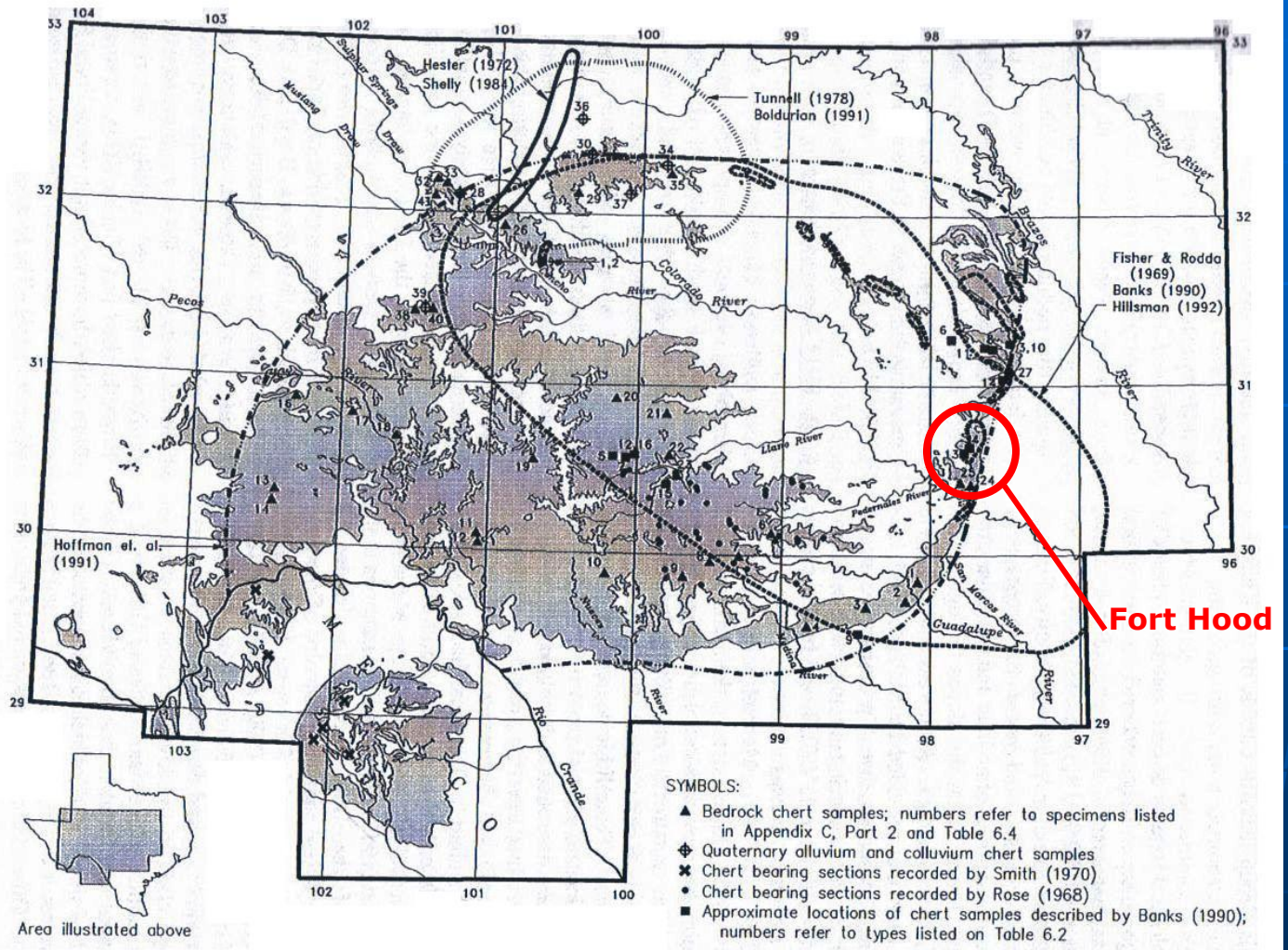


Figure 6.5 Map Comparing the Location of Bedrock Chert Sample Localities Identified in Appendix C with Previously Described Chert Bearing Sections, the Edwards Group Outcrop, and Areas Identified Sources of Edwards Chert.

Map shows Edwards chert distributions suggested by various archaeologists

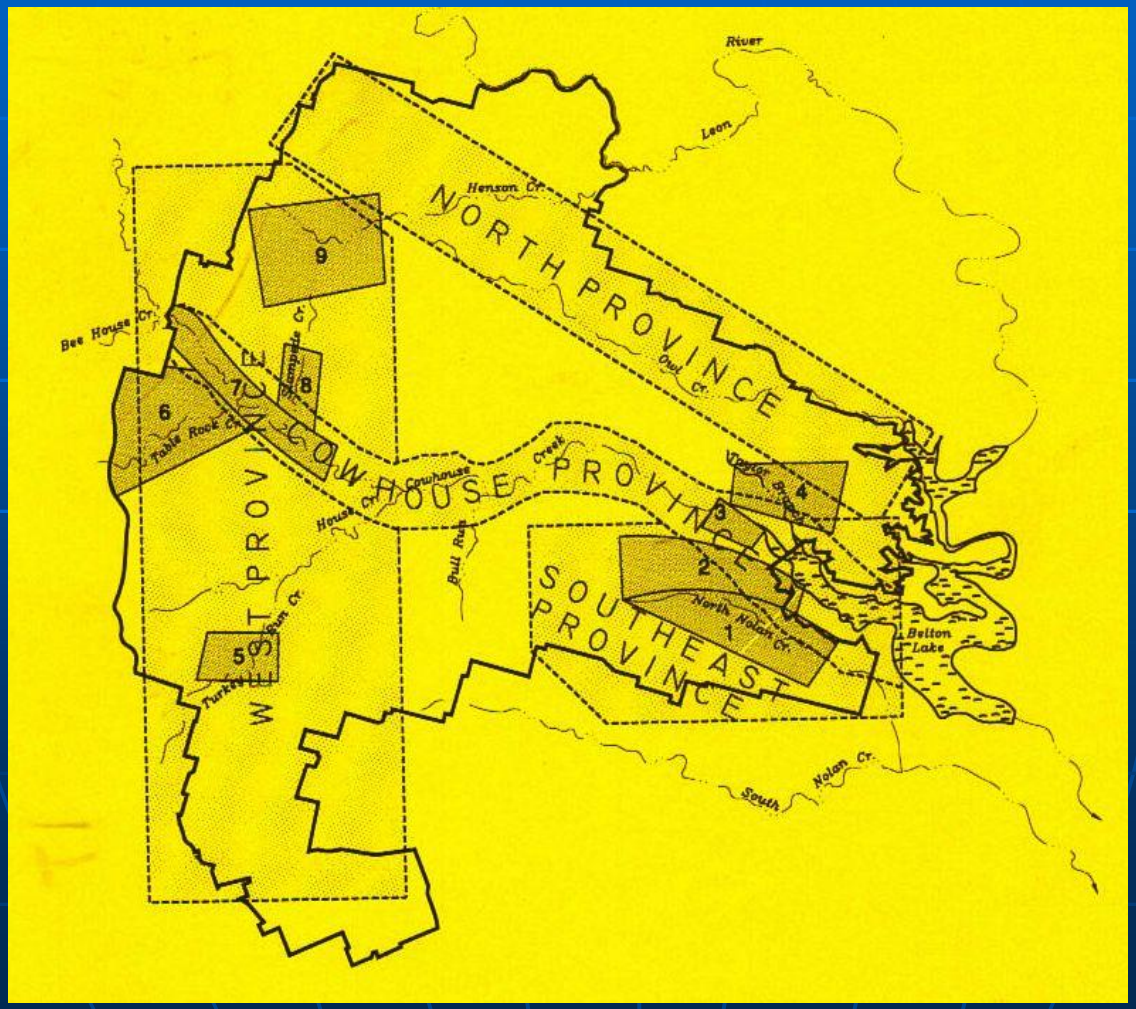
Edwards Chert from Fort Hood

Note great diversity of color in limited geographic area.

Most individual outcrops have relatively homogenous colors of chert

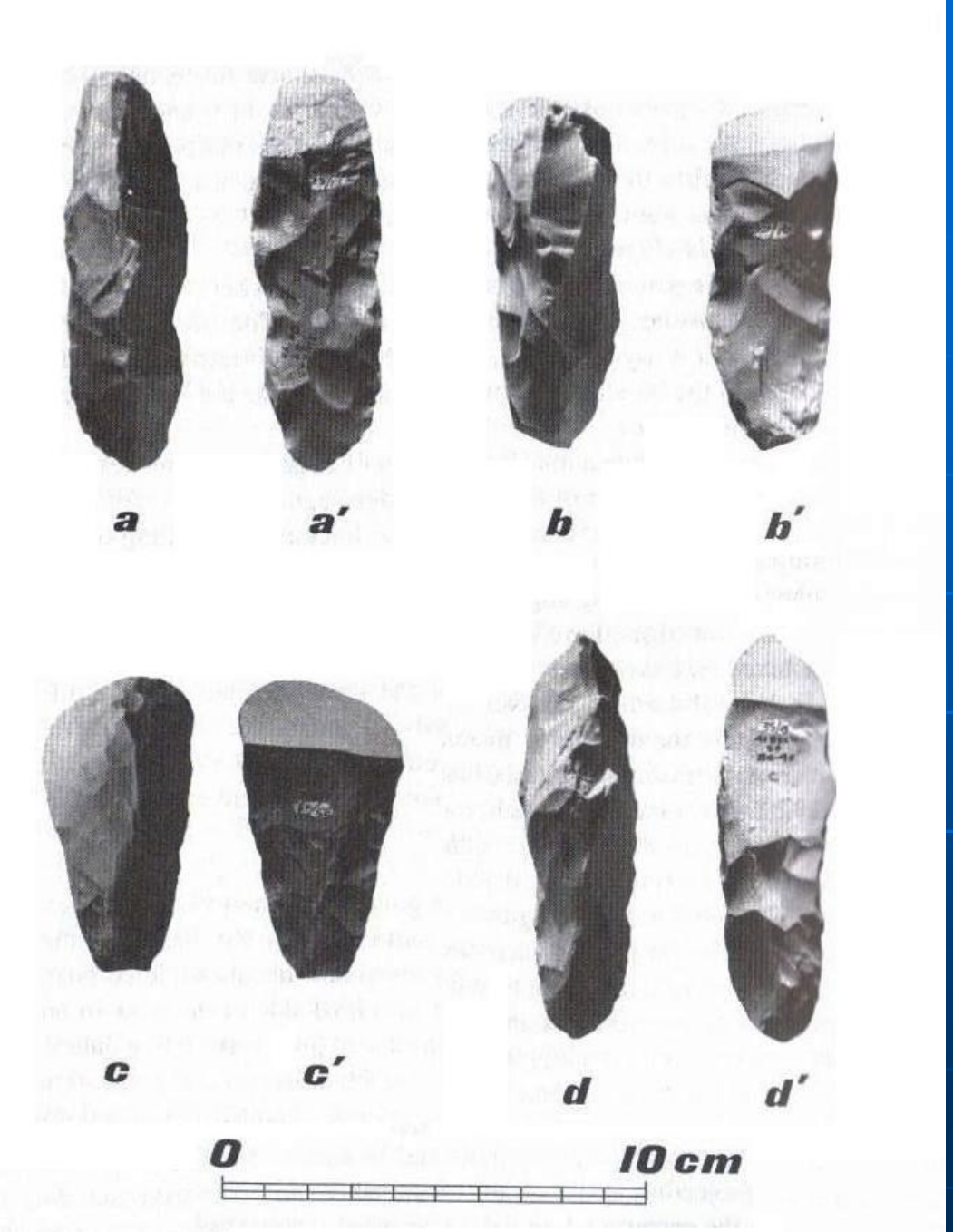
Edwards Formation Exposures at Fort Hood contain zonation exposures of chert.

More than 23 different color groups are derived from four chert "Provinces" on the base



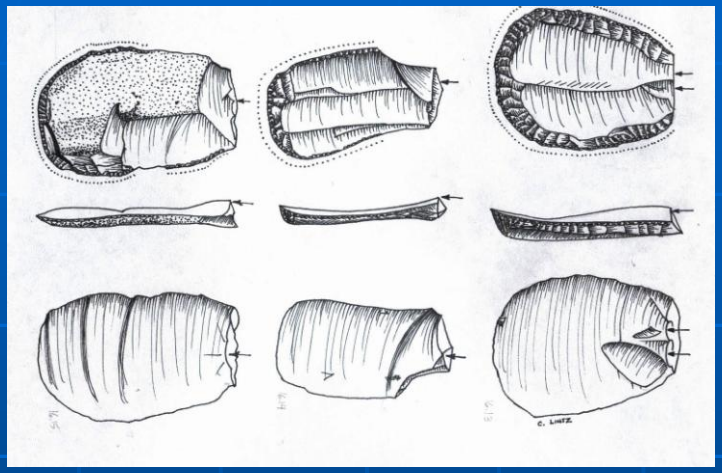
Guadalupe tool caches common to south Texas.

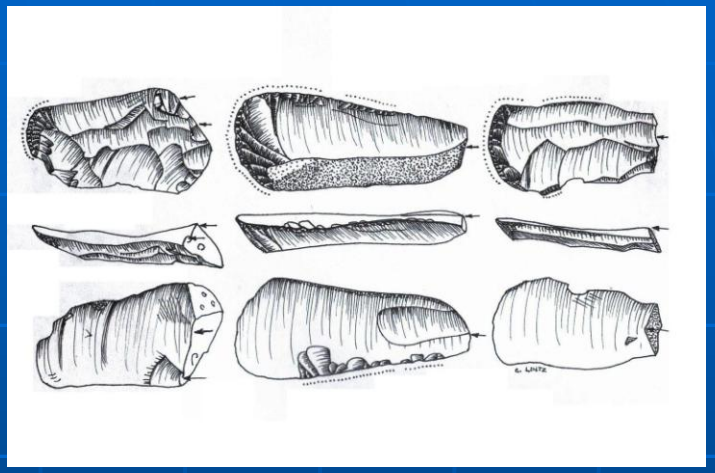
Specialized form of wood working gouges

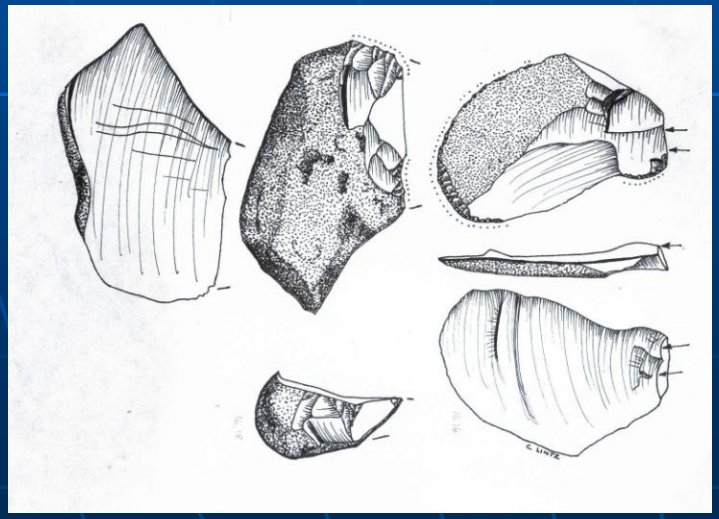


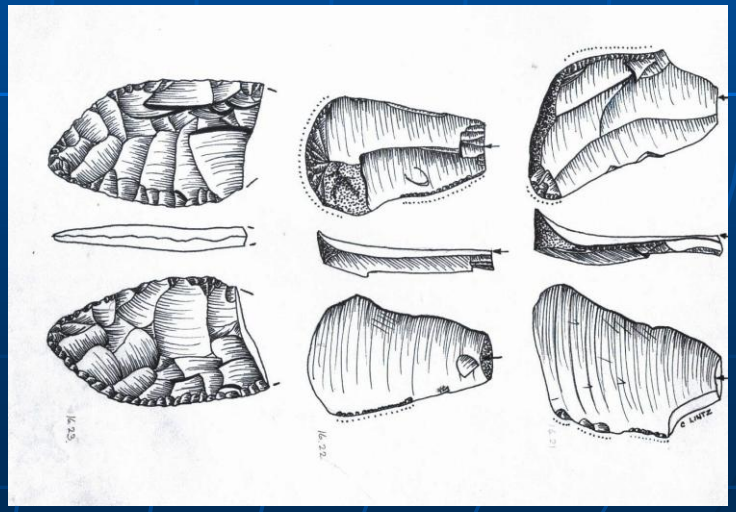
Scraper Tool Kit 41RN169

Tool kits are repetitive tool forms related to a specialized activity



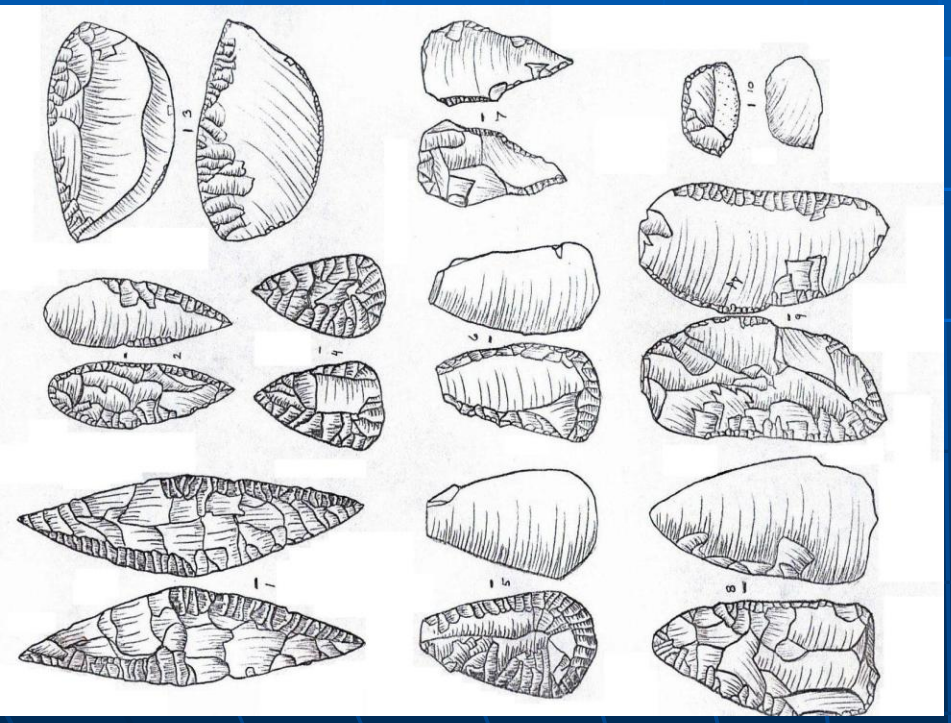


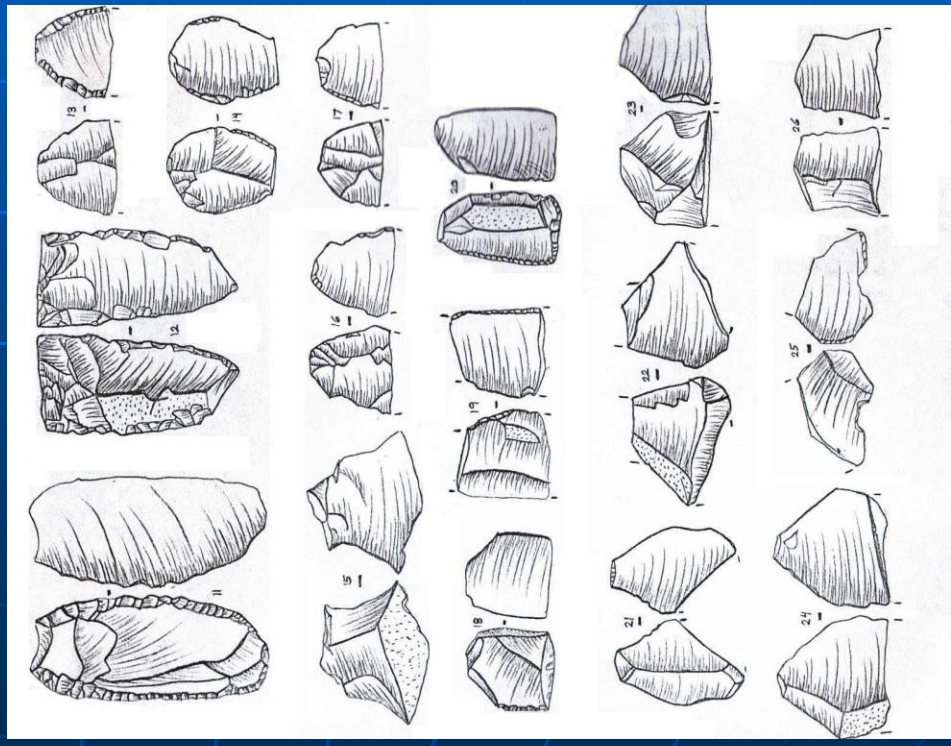




Tool Chest from 34Tx32

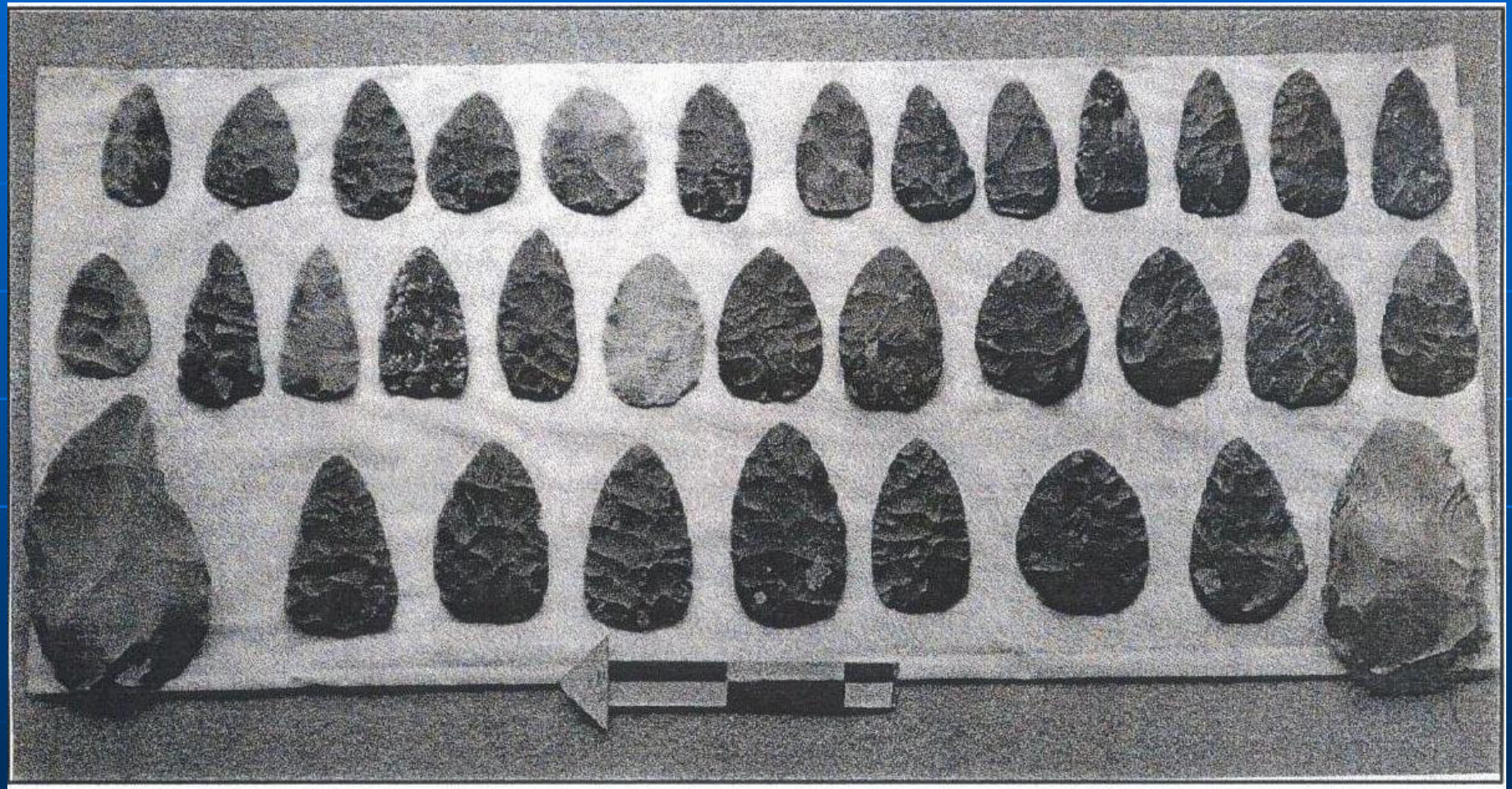
Tool chest show great diversity of finished implements suitable for use in a wide range of activities.





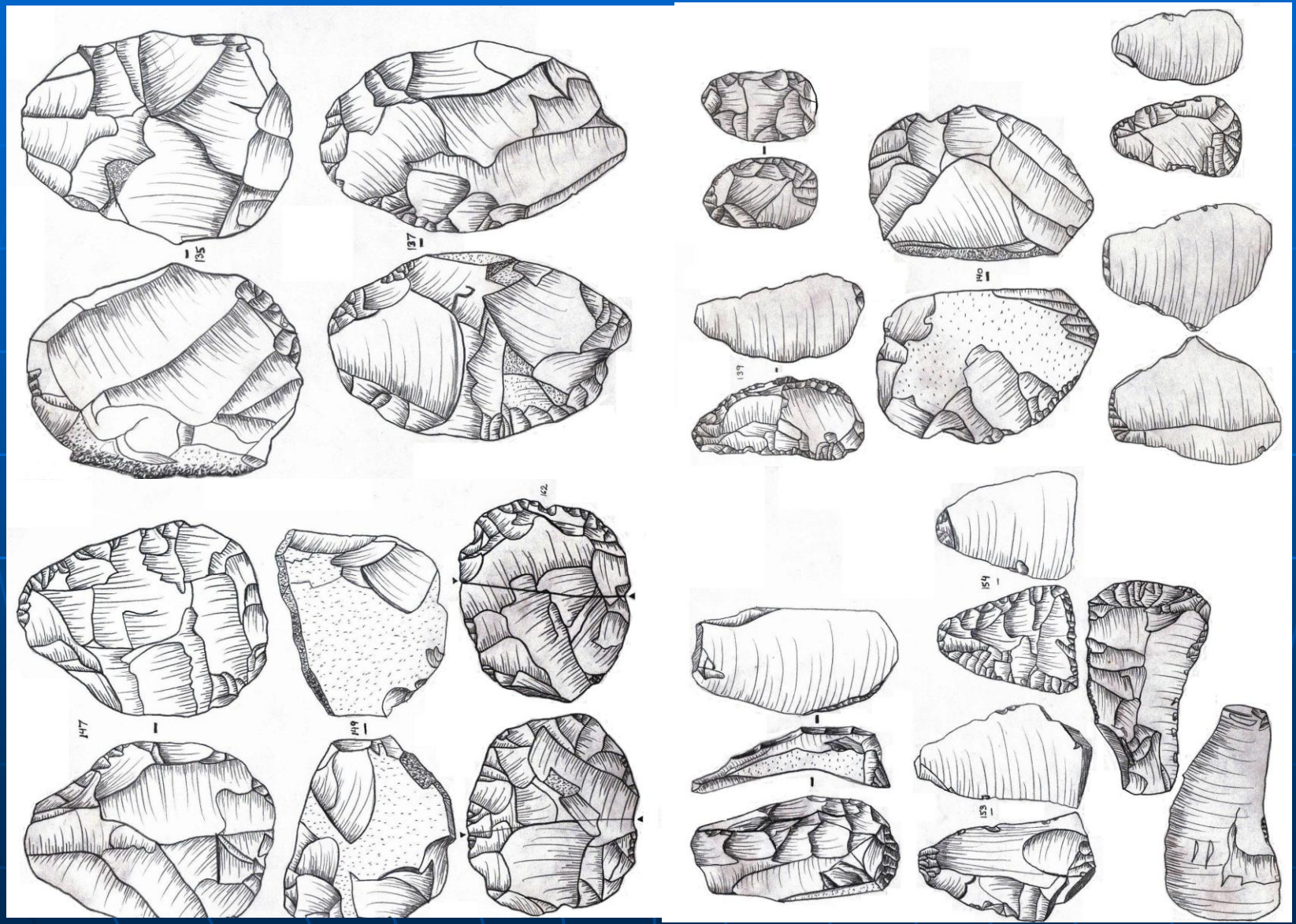
Goldapp Biface Cache

Biface trade blank cache items have generalized geometric forms, rough-shaped suitable for many kinds of implements and thinned to reduce transportation costs.



GOLDAPP CACHE
LA GRANGE, TEXAS

Shores Biface & Scraper Cache



Baird Biface

Exceptionally large thin bifaces used in trade blank cache.

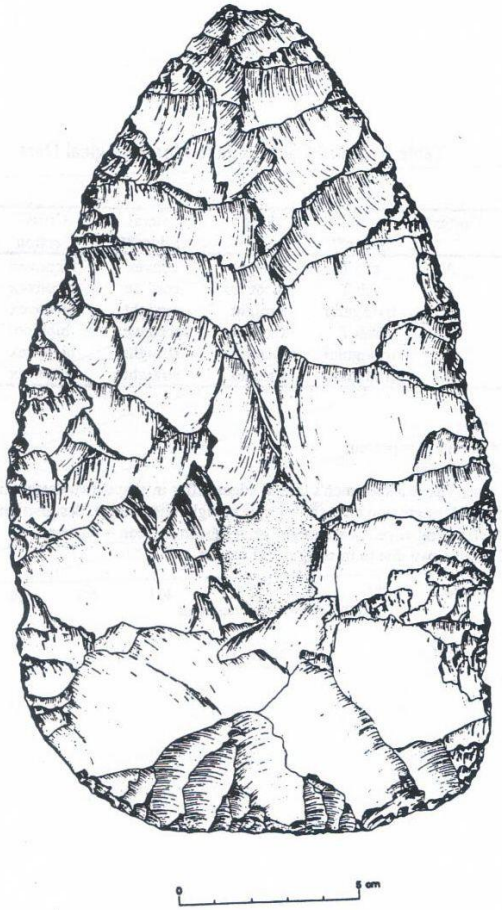


Figure 13. Sketch of Baird Cache biface, GP35571, front view

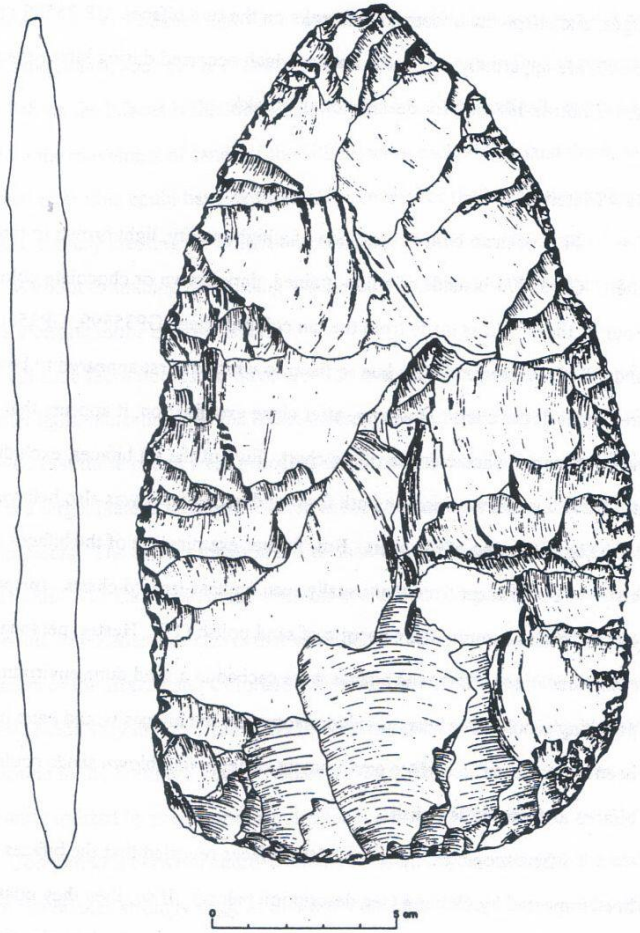
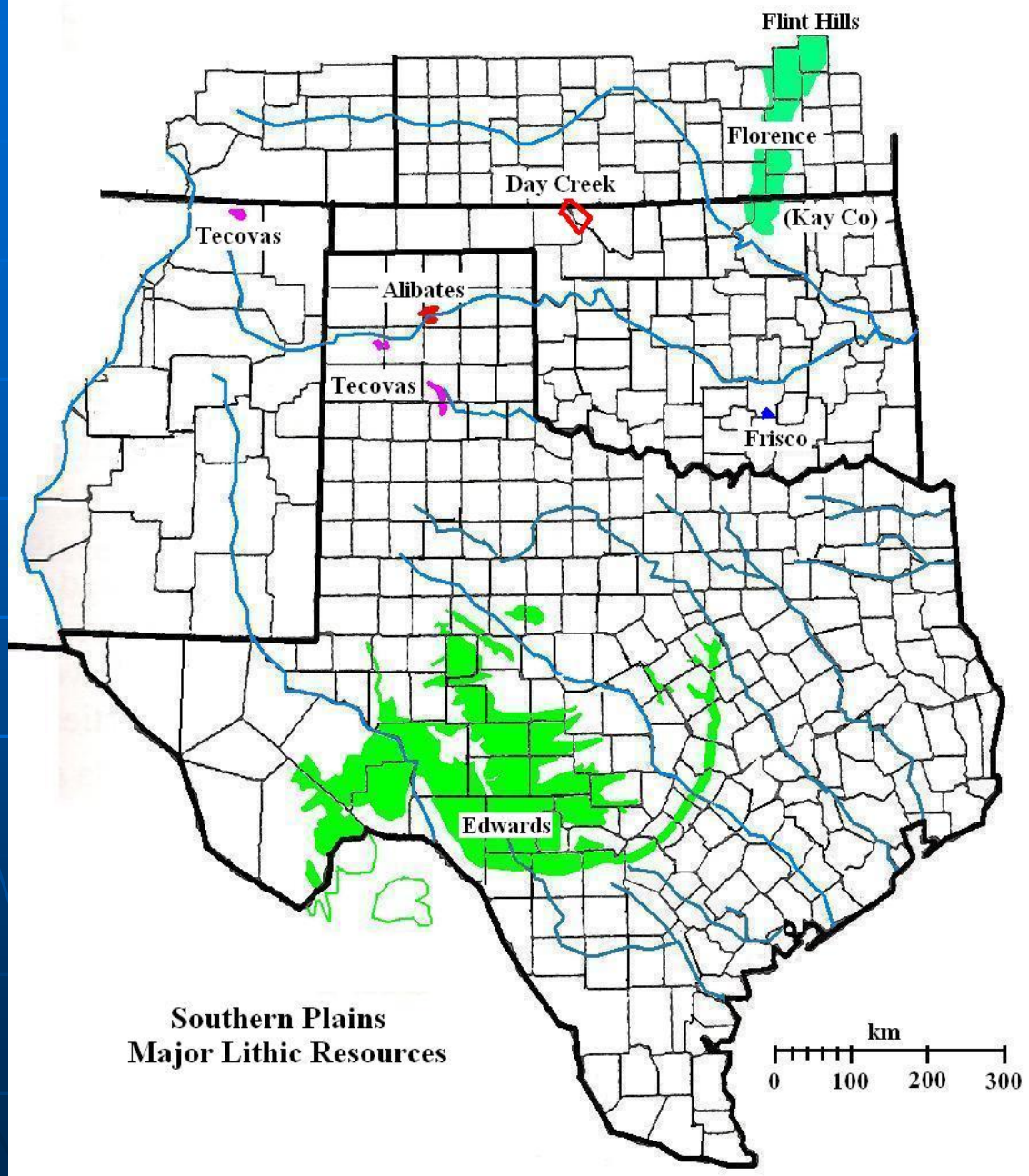


Figure 14. Sketch of Baird Cache biface GP35571, back view and cross-section



Distribution of Lithic resources commonly used in caches.

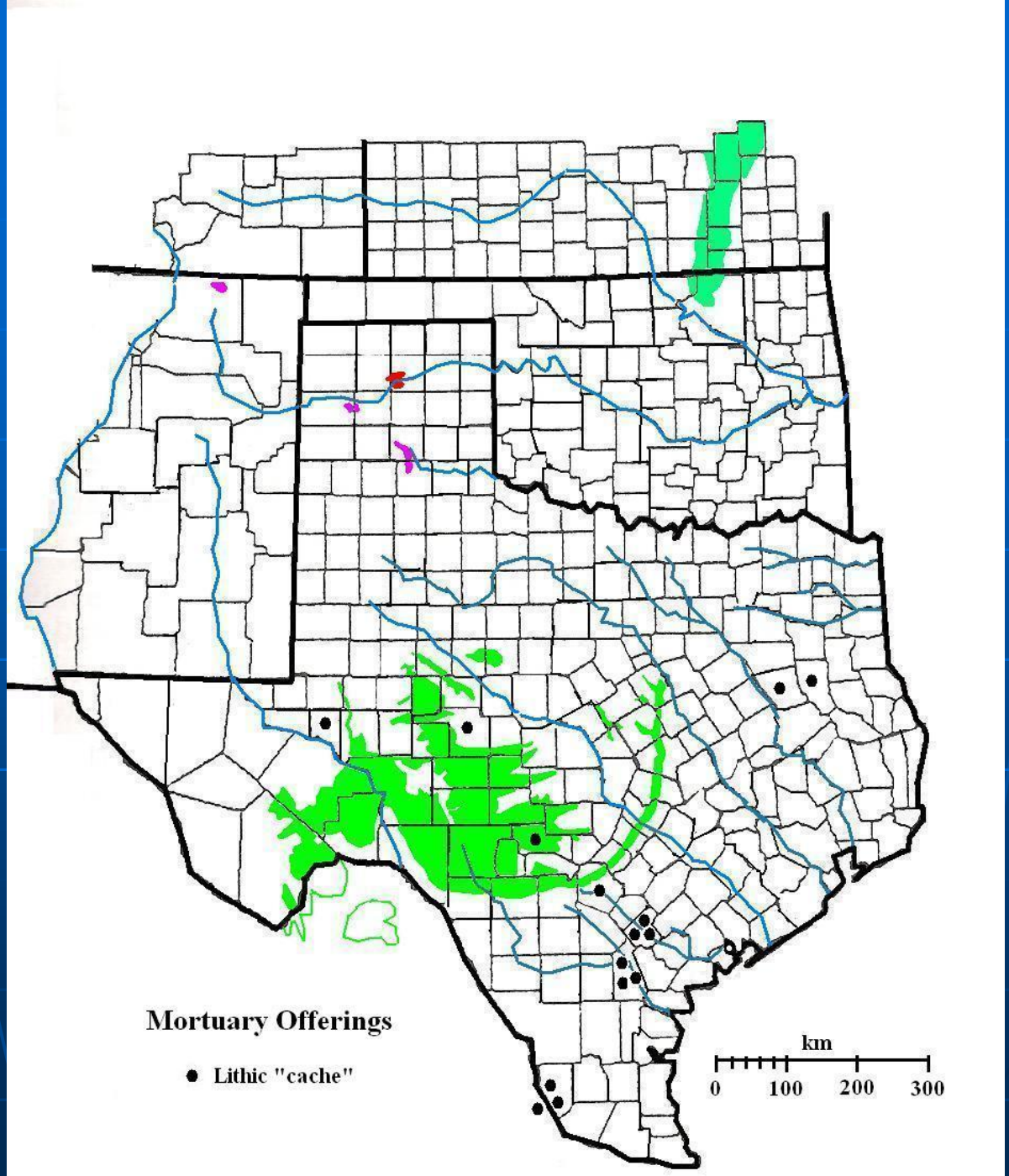
Most cached materials on Southern Plains come from Alibates, Edwards, and Florence Sources.

Mortuary caches are concentrated to South Texas.

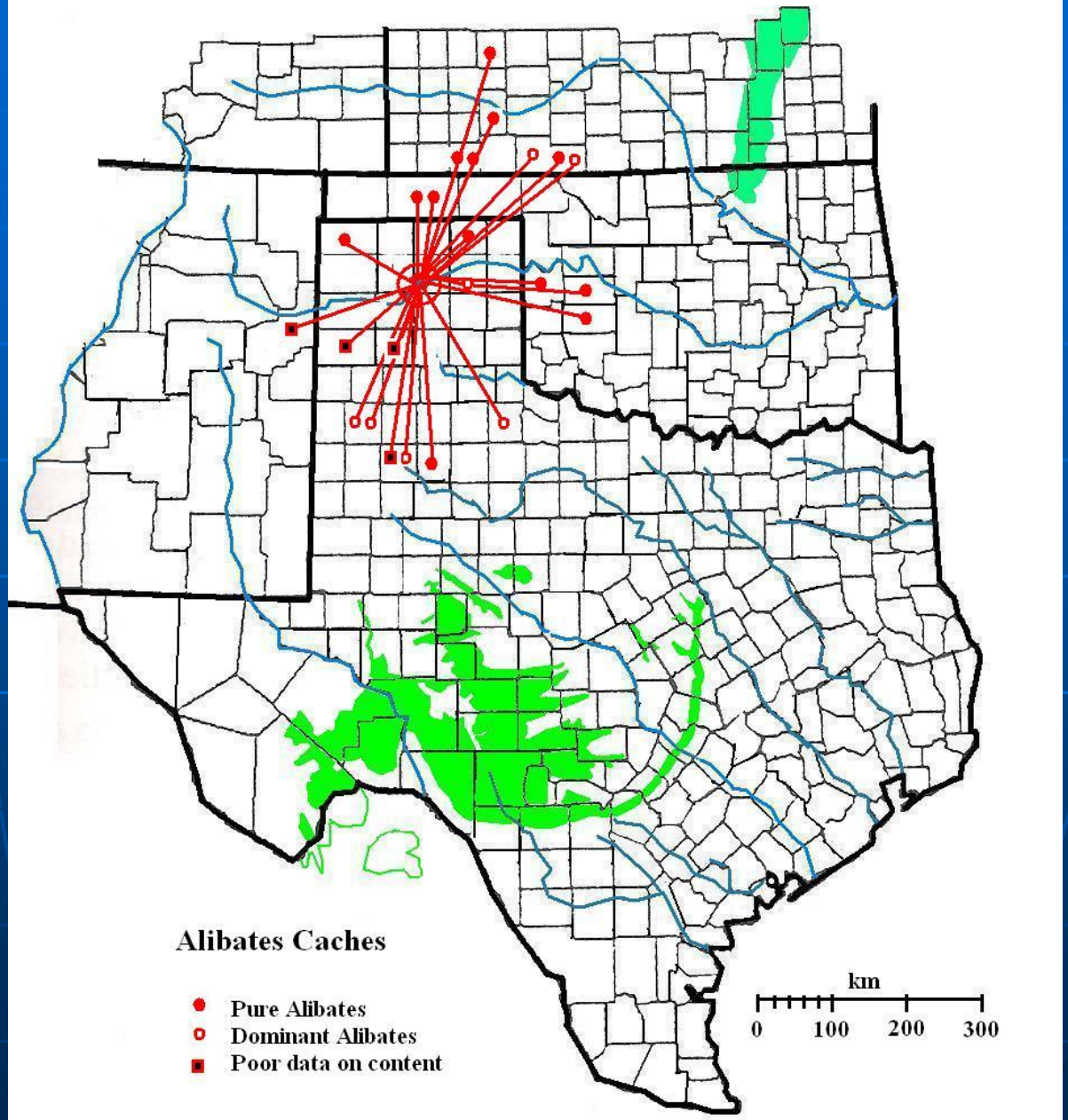
Few other lithic "caches" are found with burials.

If caches are intended for reuse, them mortuary caches are intended for use in the spirit world.

Contributed grave goods apt to be different from goods used as procurement caches on terrestrial world.

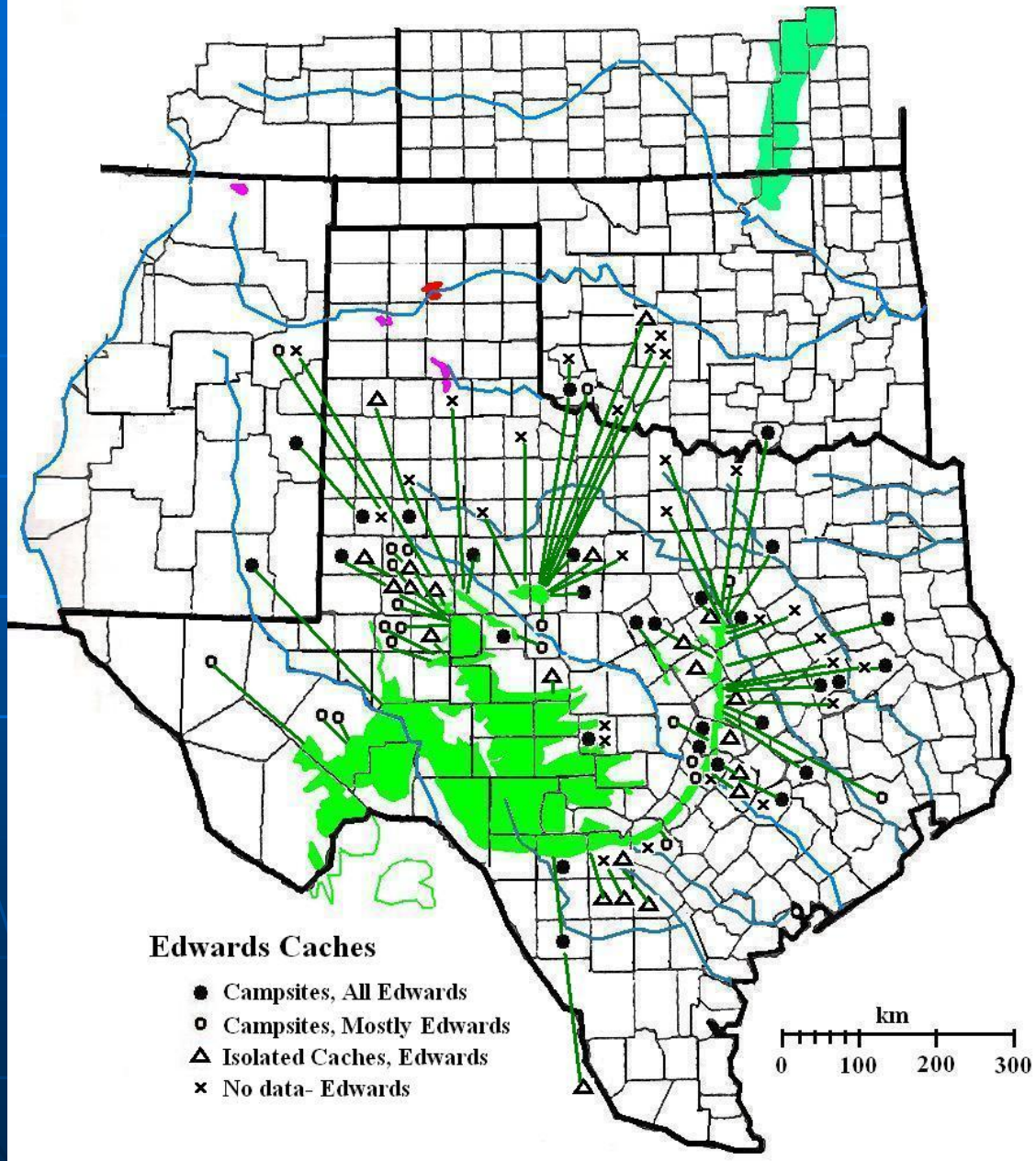


Alibates Agate
Cache Distributions



Edwards Plateau cache distributions

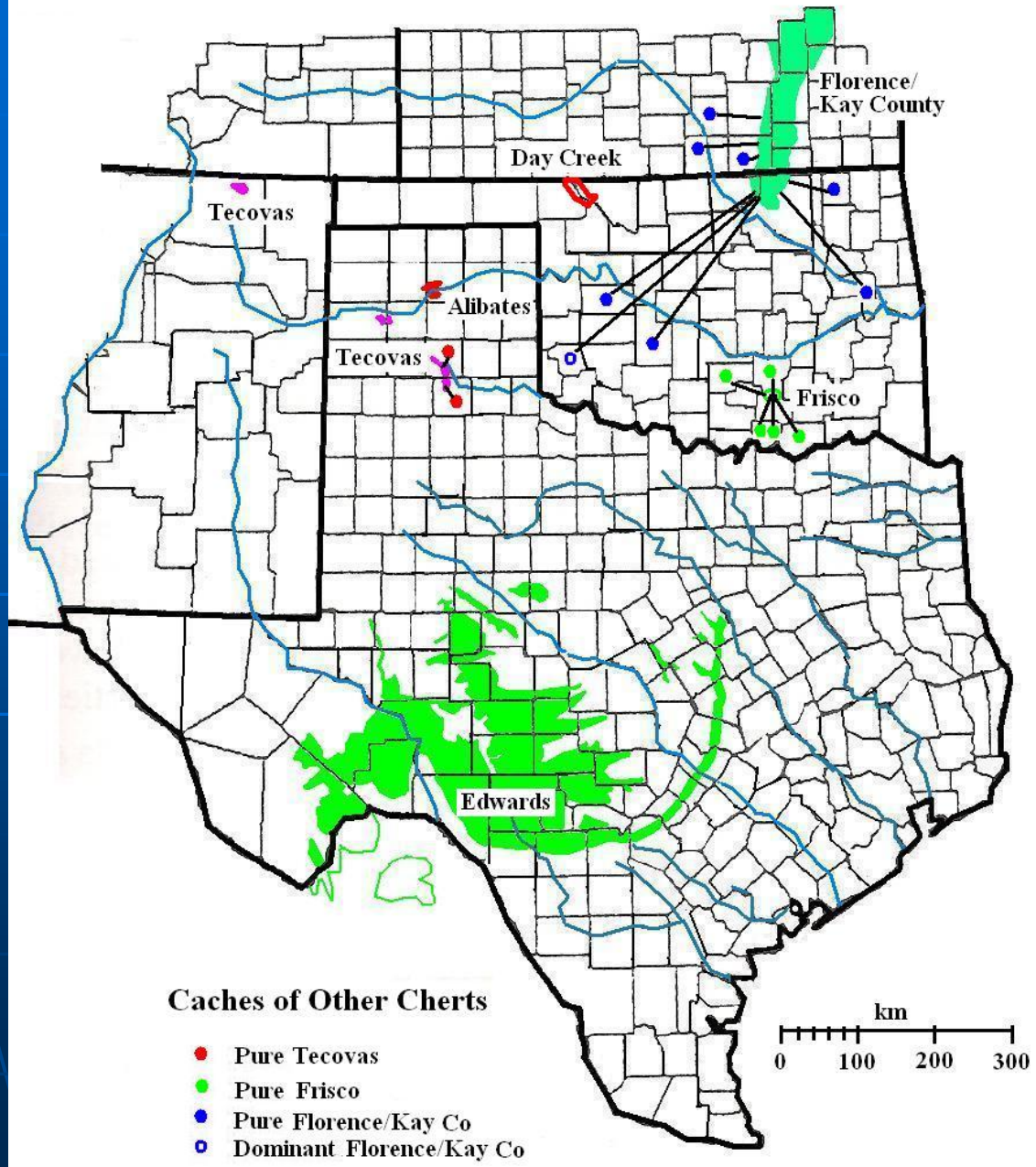
Note lack of caches in counties with outcrops

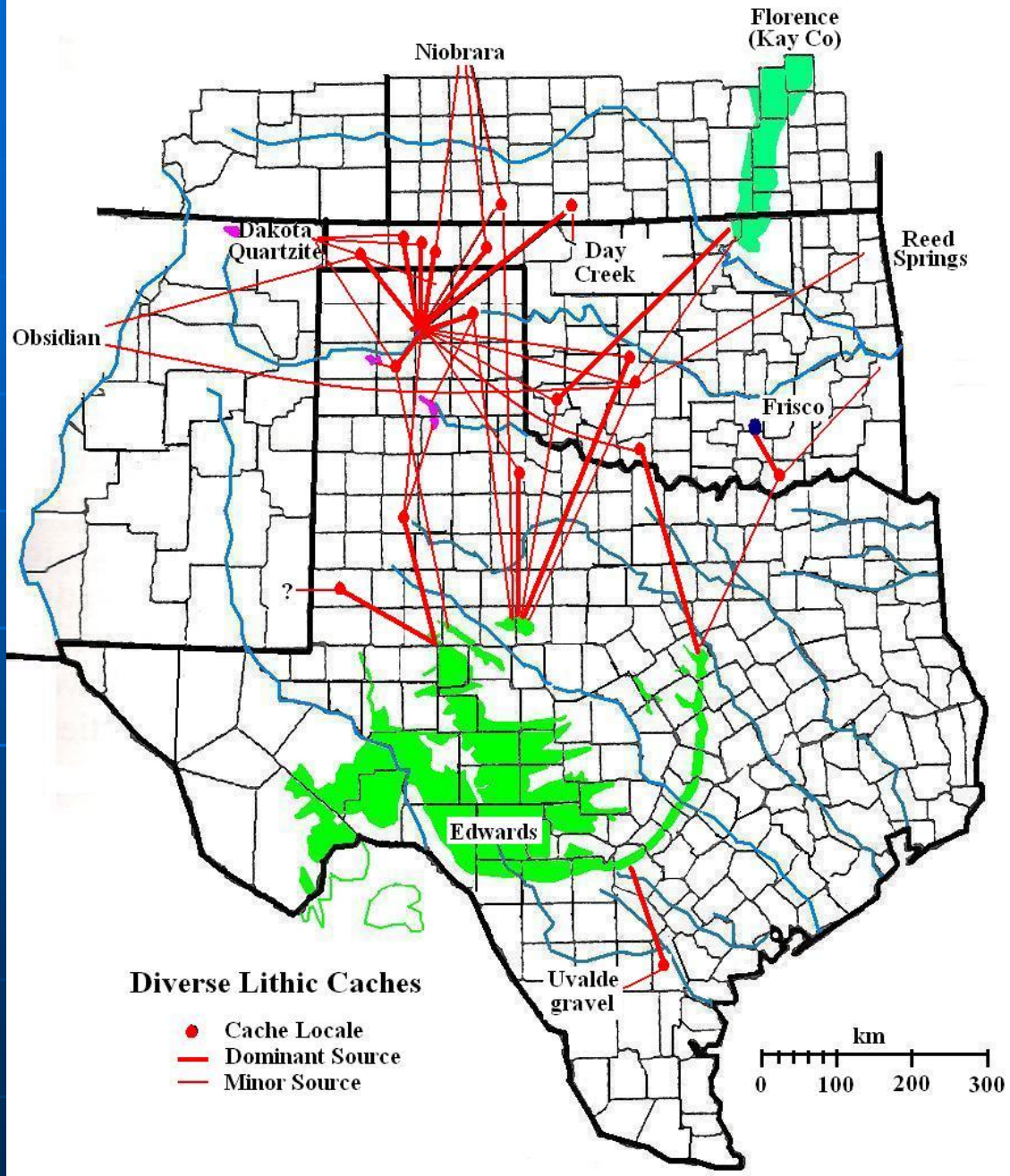


Other Cached Materials

Tecovas, and Frisco cherts generally localized.

Florence/ Kay County chert is exception for long distance use or exchange.





Distribution of caches containing multiple sources of tool stone.

Most occur long distance from common tool stone sources.

Perhaps reflect restocking of cache at different times and different sources.

Zone Caching Model surrounding lithic resource areas.

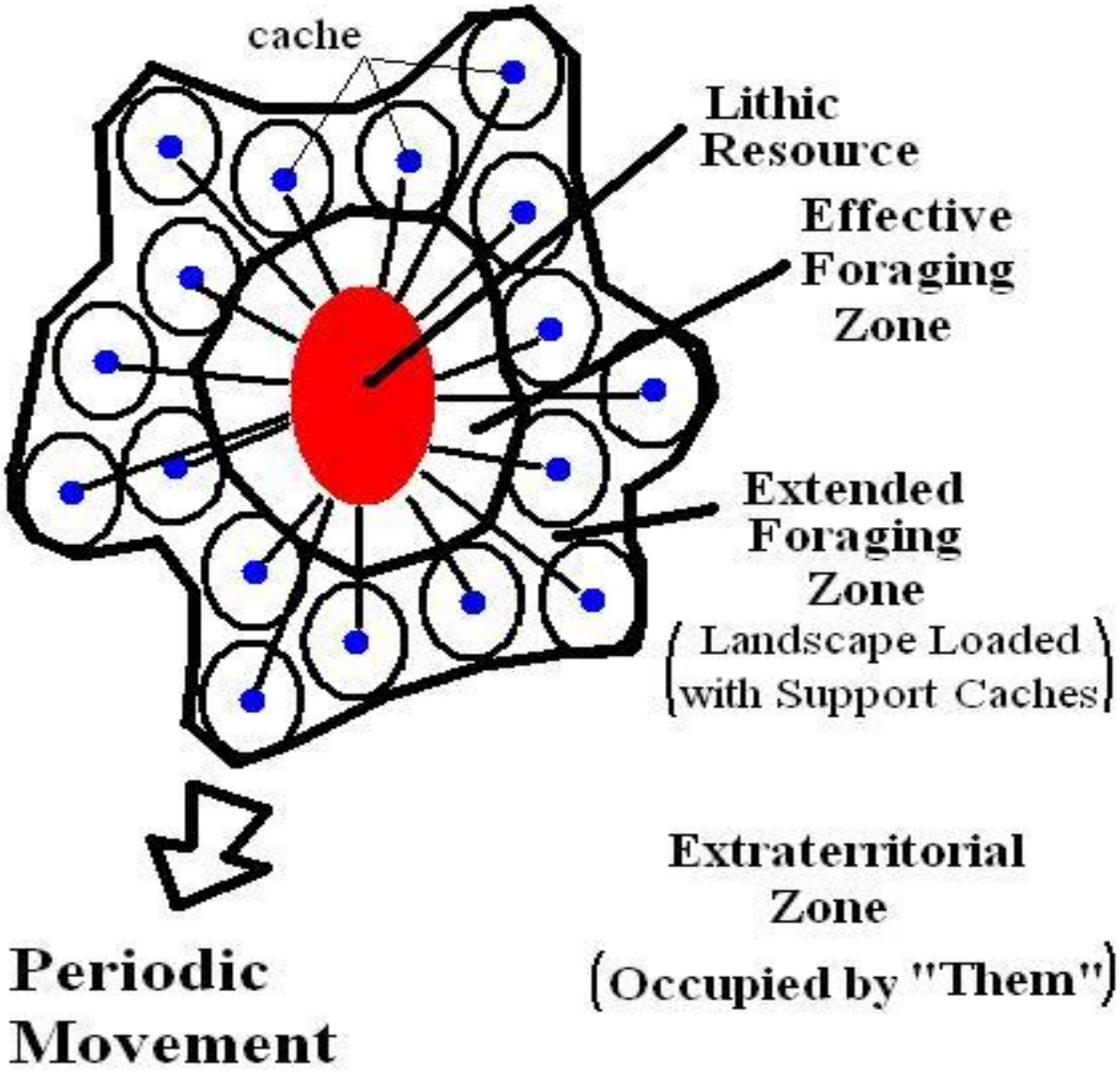
Caching behavior Rare in lithic resource exposure area.

Tool Kit and Tool Chest caches common, but few Biface Trade Blank caches in effective foraging zone

Biface caches load the landscape in extended foraging zone by local groups

Extra-territorial zone refers to exchange activities.

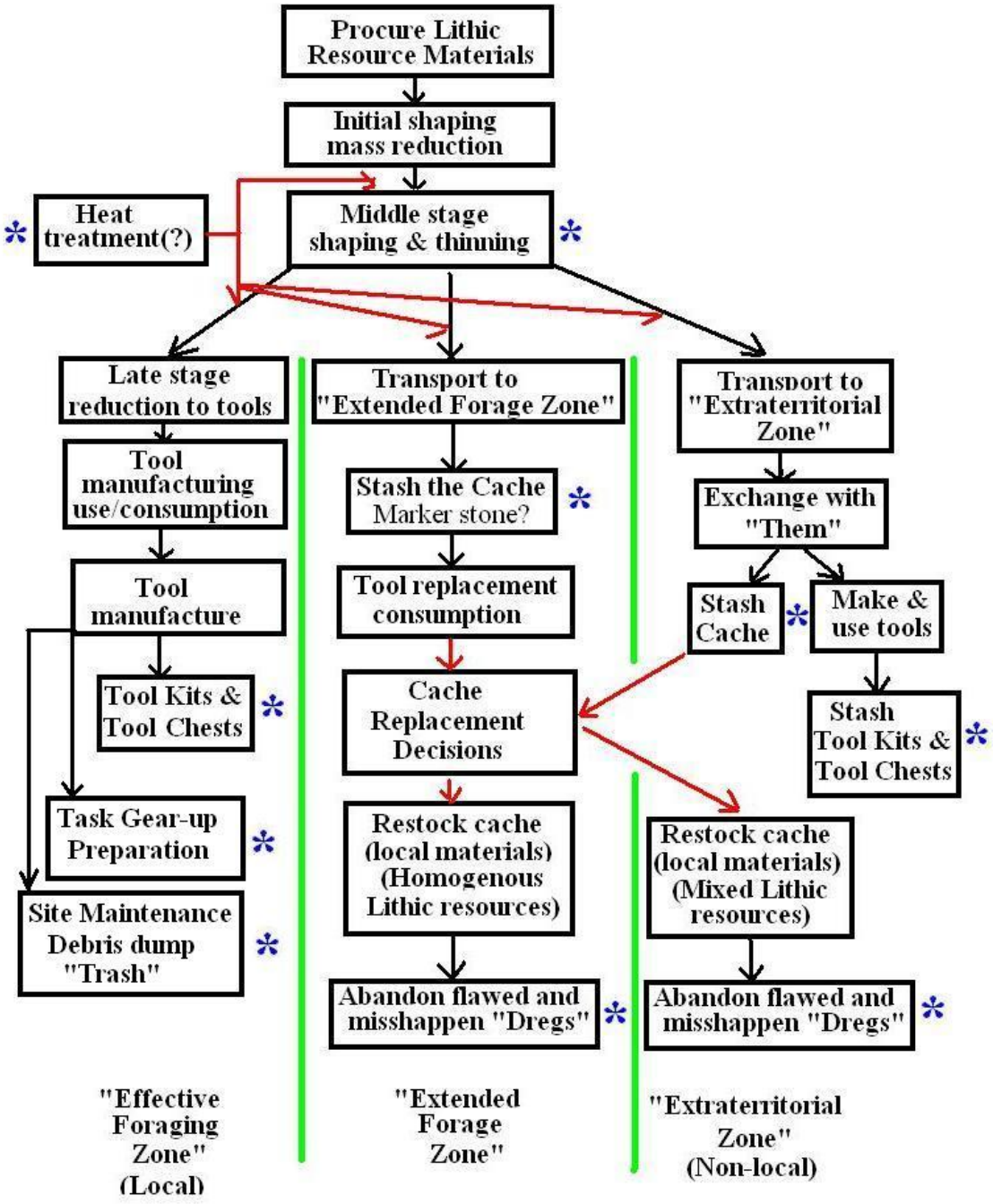
Many of these caches may have lithics from multiple different sources



Lithic Reduction Sequence and Use Zones

Processual points marked by asterisk denote potential material clusters designated as caches.

Great diversity of reasons underlie formation of caches.



Conclusions:

1) The term “cache” is just about as enlightening as the term “feature.”
2) A whole lot of activities and behavoirs are reflected by the term cache.
3) Understanding behaviors requires improvements in observations on lithic types, cache composition, and especially the context of caches.
4) Scarcity of marker caches or capstone with Alibates caches suggest that behaviors in the panhandle are very different from that displayed by the Edwards Plateau caches.
5) The greater spatial breadth and density of Edwards (and to a lesser extent, Alibates) caches perhaps reflects the quality and value of these resources of the scores of other lithic resources across the Southern Plains.