



Steve Holen, curator of archaeology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, stands behind a giant Ice Age bison skull.



Bison tooth.



Dr. Joe Sertich holds a large mammoth humerus.

WHAT'S COMING: SUPPORT SNOWMASS DISCOVERY

A Colorado legend was born when thousands of huge and pristine ice age fossils were discovered near Snowmass Village in 2010. The non-profit organization Snowmass Discovery was formed to breathe life into that legacy. We're moving forward to create an "Ice Age experience" facility equal to the world-class discovery itself. This facility would provide an appropriate and permanent home for Colorado's unparalleled Ice Age story. Support Snowmass Discovery's vision of "engaging the treasures of the ancient past to inspire stewardship of the future."

Your tax deductible contribution can be made to:
Snowmass Discovery
PO Box 5800
Snowmass Village, CO 81615

For more information contact Tom Cardamone,
Executive Director at 970.379.0185,
tomcardamone.co@gmail.com, or visit
www.snowmassdiscovery.org.

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is
Snowmass Discovery's strategic partner. Become
a DMNS member and enjoy exclusive membership
privileges. To learn more visit www.dmns.org.

SNOWMASS ICE AGE DISCOVERY CENTER

Touch mammoth and mastodon teeth. Wonder at
a half-sized six foot wooden mammoth skeleton.
Read Ice Age books in the children's library. See
video from Denver Museum of Nature & Science and
learn the story of the Snowmass Ice Age discovery
through creative displays, educational panels and
interactive programming. The Snowmass Ice Age
Discovery Center on the Snowmass Mall is built
for kids with plenty of things for adults to enjoy
too. **Open daily from 10:00am-5:00pm. June 1
to October 1 and December 1 to April 15. FREE!**
For more information, call 970.922.2277 or visit
www.gosnowmass.com.



Snowmass Ice Age Discovery Center located on the
Snowmass Mall.



SNOWMASS
VILLAGE
COLORADO

1.800.SNOWMASS • GOSNOWMASS.COM

WORLD'S FINEST ICE AGE FOSSIL DISCOVERY NEAR SNOWMASS VILLAGE, CO



SNOWMASS
VILLAGE
COLORADO



THE FIND

In October 2010, a bulldozer operator working at Ziegler Reservoir in Snowmass Village, Colorado uncovered the tusk of a young female mammoth.

Over the next 10 months, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science conducted its largest-ever fossil excavation, uncovering more than 5,000 bones of ten large mammals and over 26,000 small bones from 40 small vertebrate animals. The excavation led to the finest alpine Ice Age fossil trove in the world; Colorado's most important fossil discovery ever, and the largest discovery of mastodons (35) in the world. Perhaps most importantly, the discovery provides a window into ancient environments and climate

stretching back 140,000 years. This has significantly sharpened the ability to see accurately into the future of mountain environments where shifting climate has already initiated change.

The emerging story, deciphered by four dozen scientists at 20 institutions, is one of complete ecosystems populated by forests, grasslands, wildflowers, shrublands, and a richly diverse cast of animal inhabitants. We now know that the fauna and flora of these ecosystems were challenged by a phenomena where subtle shifts in climate precipitated dramatic, cascading changes in the species of plants and animals that could live at the Snowmass site. Beyond the wonder of seeing ancient ecosystems in sharp detail, the Snowmass discovery provides a clear lens through which to anticipate the future of Snowmass' natural environment and similar places.

Acrylic paintings of Ziegler Reservoir landscape by Jan Vriesen.



About 120,000 years ago, when the area was dominated by mastodon, giant ground sloths, and bison.



Depicts 70,000 to 60,000 years ago, when the area was dominated by mammoth, camels, and deer.



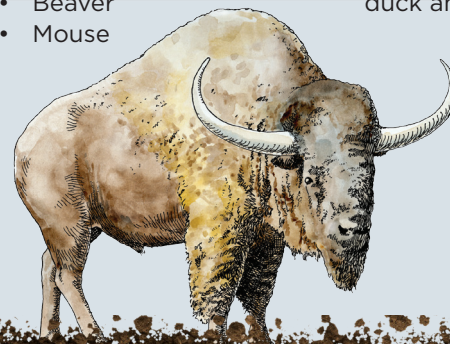
Depicts November 15, 2010, as the first phase of fossil excavation was concluding.

LARGE MAMMALS:

- American mastodon, parts of at least 35 individuals; most prevalent large animal at the site
- Giant bison, parts of at least 10 individuals
- Jefferson's ground sloth, parts of at least 4 individuals
- Columbian mammoth, parts of at least 3 individuals
- Deer, parts of at least 3 individuals
- Horse, based on a single ankle bone
- Camel, based on a single tooth
- Black bear
- Bighorn sheep
- Coyote

SMALLER ANIMALS:

- Otter
- Muskrat
- Vole
- Mink or Weasel
- Chipmunk
- Rabbit
- Beaver
- Mouse
- Tiger Salamander
- Frog, 4 species
- Lizard, 2 species
- Snake
- Fish
- Birds including goose, duck and crane



Liz Miller (volunteer) digs/holds mastodon tooth.

THE FOSSILS

The bones were buried in wet silt and peat for tens of thousands of years, so they emerged very fragile and prone to disintegration if allowed to dry out too fast. The fossils required careful drying over many months so they were encased in field jackets (tissue, burlap, and wet plaster) at the site and transported to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. There, the field jackets were removed and the fossils were cleaned then allowed to dry slowly, and prepared by volunteers and staff at the Schlessman Family Preparation Laboratory at the Denver Museum and at the Ice Age Discovery Center in Snowmass Village, where that work continues in 2015.

Josh Smith, Bryan Small, Bryan Small, Becky Benzie, Joe Sertich and Steve Mohr work to move a mastodon pelvis in its field jacket.



Volunteers, Tim Seeber and Malcolm Bedell, hold a large mastodon femur.

