

Snowmass Ice Age Discovery

The Finest High-Elevation Ice Age Fossil Discovery in the World



Birdseye View of Snowmass Village and Ziegler Reservoir (middle right)

Photo Credit: Tamara Susa

Snowmass Village, Colo., (Winter 2020) – More than 150,000 years ago, glaciers covered the area that would become Snowmass Village. Slowly, over thousands of years, the massive Bull Glacier retreated and carved a bowl that would fill with melting glacier water and eventually become what is now Ziegler Reservoir in Snowmass Village.

In 2010, a construction crew unearthed a single tusk of a young female mammoth while digging at Ziegler Reservoir. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science took over the site and went on to find 5,000 bones of 10 mammals and over 26,000 small bones from small vertebrate animals—40 species in all. The 10-month project became a race to uncover and carefully extricate these bones. Mammoths, mastodons, Ice Age camels, horses, sloths, and other species, as well as insects, plant life and more were found. The Snowmass paleontological site is the richest Ice Age ecosystem found at high altitude.

Guests can learn about the site of this important discovery by visiting the information center at Town Park Station, which hosts a temporary exhibit for the 2019/2020 winter season. Guests skiing or snowboarding at Snowmass Ski Area can learn more about the discovery at the new interpretive Ice Age Discovery signs, located off ski runs Scooper and Dawdler.

For more information call (970) 922-2277 or visit www.gosnowmass.com/about-us/visitor-center/

About Snowmass Village, Colorado – A renowned winter playground and vibrant summer community just 9 miles from Aspen, Snowmass consistently ranks as one of the best ski areas in

the world. Snowmass offers guests incredible views of mountain vistas, in addition to 2.8 million adjacent acres of wilderness, open for activities and exploration. Snowmass offers a wide variety of outdoor activities, 30+ restaurants, 95 percent slopeside lodging, shopping, unique special events and music – all year round. For more information and a complete calendar of events and activities, please visit: www.gosnowmass.com.

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