

SNOWMASS

SNOWMASS ICE AGE DISCOVERY

The Finest High-Elevation Ice Age
Fossil Discovery In The World

More than **150,000 years ago**, glaciers covered the area that would become **Snowmass Village**. The ancient site began as a carved-out pit of sediment, left behind by the movement of massive glaciers. 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.



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



About 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.

Acrylic paintings of Ziegler Reservoir landscape by Jan Vriesen.



**6,000
BONES
OF
10
MAMMALS**

**MORE THAN
30,000
BONES
FROM
SMALL VERTEBRATE
ANIMALS
42
SPECIES IN ALL**

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 6,000 bones of 10 mammals and over 30,000 small bones from small vertebrate animals – 42 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**.



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EXPLORE THE DISCOVERY

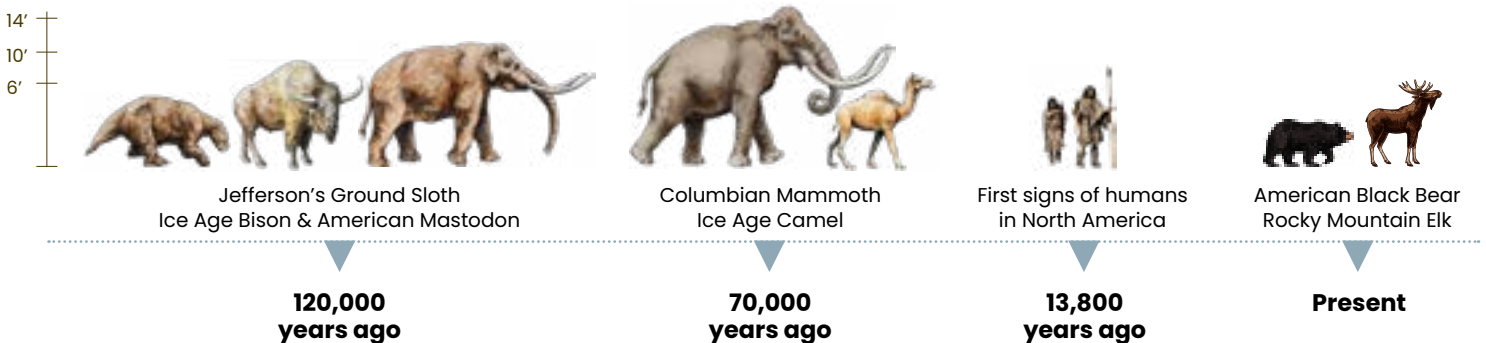
Learn about the site of the Snowmass Ice Age Discovery:

Visit the **Info Center** at Town Park Station which hosts temporary **Ice Age Discovery** exhibits.

Hike or ski to the new interpretive **Ice Age Discovery signs**, located off ski runs **Scooper** and **Dawdler**.



YOU ARE HERE. SO WERE THEY.



SNOWMASS
COLORADO

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