



Helen H. Richardson The Denver Post

Museum staff members Maria Hannon, Sarah Akins, Adrian Gallagher and Bridget Coughlin admire the variety of fossils on display from the initial excavation of the Ice Age fossil site discovered at Ziegler Reservoir near Snowmass Village. At right is a mammoth jaw, which is next to the Jefferson's ground sloth humerus. After a month of frenetic activity, Denver Museum of Nature & Science scientists and volunteers have finished their and have returned to the museum in Denver to prepare for the next phase of scientific analysis.

Museum carries its spoils back to Denver

Fossils from Snowmass Ice Age site will undergo scientific analysis this winter

Electa Draper
The Denver Post

Back at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, crews that spent a month of frenzied fossil discovery at a 130,000-year-old muddy lakebed near Snowmass Village are finding their Ice Age treasure even more magnificent than previously revealed.

Museum workers — 67 individuals — recovered more than 500 bones representing eight to 10 American mastodons, four Columbian mammoths, four Ice Age bison, two deer, Colorado's first-ever Jefferson's ground sloth, several smaller animal species and hundreds of pounds of plant material.

Museum staff, having washed, sorted and transported fossils, revealed the latest, most impressive body count at a museum press conference Thursday morning.

"Our museum is changed forever," president and Chief Executive Officer George Sparks said. "Careers and lives are changed."

All of the museum's 450 employees and some 1,600 volunteers have supported this effort so far, he said. And analysis of the finds is just beginning.

Over time, paleontologists have pieced together a picture of the recent Ice Age from isolated sites around the world — from a mammoth femur from one state and another bone from another country, and so on.

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**George Sparks, president and CEO
Denver Museum of Nature & Science**

At Ziegler Reservoir scientists uncovered a whole Ice Age ecosystem, spanning tens of thousands of years and marvelously preserved at an elevation of 8,874 feet, an altitude that had been mostly absent from the fossil record.

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