

Paleoindian-Age Lamb Spring Site Celebrates New Interpretive Display

The Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve (LSAP) installed a new on-site exhibit featuring the cast of a juvenile mammoth and interpretive signs describing the history of excavations and the significance of the site. The interpretive signs and display enhance the free twice-monthly public tours of the site that run spring through fall (<http://www.douglas.co.us/lambspring/Tours.html>). The exhibit was prepared at the University of New Mexico's, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology under the direction of Dr. E. James Dixon.



The mammoth skull and tusks were originally exposed and reburied at the site by Dr. Dennis Stanford and the Smithsonian Institution in 1981. The skull was re-excavated in 2002. A full-sized cast of the skull and tusks was completed in 2004 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). LSAP is an internationally significant archaeological site containing bone beds of extinct Ice Age animals and artifacts from later human occupation. Extinct Ice Age animals found at the site include over 30 Columbian Mammoths as well as camels, horses, sloths, llamas, and wolves. In addition to the animal remains, the site contains spear points and bison

bones from a hunt that took place at the spring sometime between 9,000 and 8,400 years ago. The artifacts left by humans indicate people hunted and camped around the spring for the past 9,000 years and possibly much longer. The site continues to foment academic interest, with Dr. Steve Holen of the DMNS recently obtaining additional radiocarbon dates on mammoths.



LSAP is expanding public outreach to highlight the site's potential as an educational center for Douglas County and the Denver metropolitan area. LSAP offers students and the general public an opportunity to view interpretive materials in their original setting. The site provides a unique opportunity to experience the process of scientific inquiry and discovery.

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