

# Idaho State University 2019 Archaeology Field School



MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH MAY 31<sup>TH</sup>

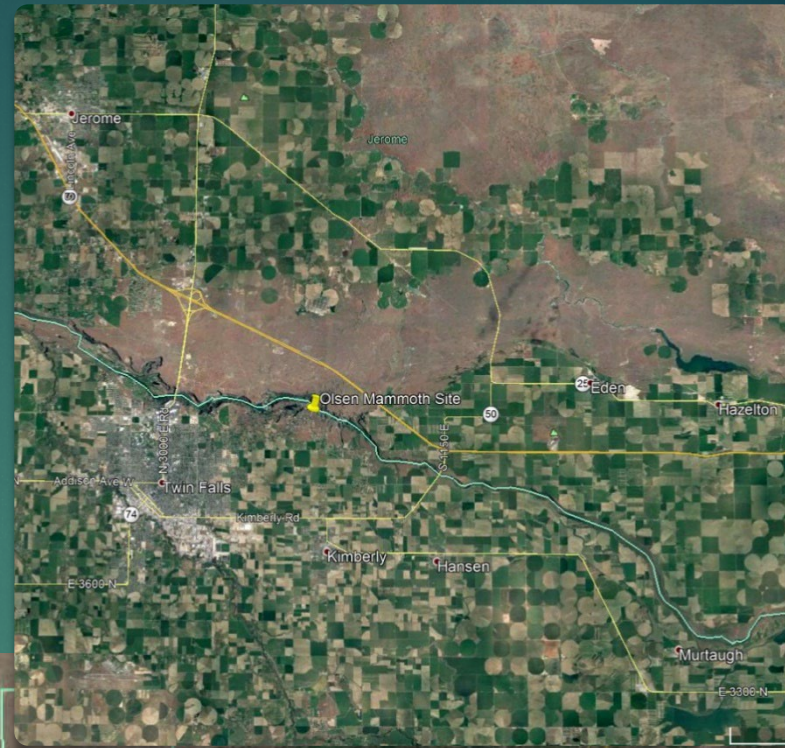


# Olsen Mammoth Site

Kimberly, Idaho

10 minutes outside of Twin Falls

1.5-2 hour drive from Pocatello





# Background

- ▶ Remains of a Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*) in front yard of Olsen house.
- ▶ Joshua and Rebecca Olsen contact Jim Woods at College of Southern Idaho in 2014.
- ▶ In May of 2014, Jim Woods and students from College of Southern Idaho excavate mammoth for summer field school.
- ▶ A tusk and various skeletal elements are uncovered.





# Background



- ▶ Woods encounters problems with recovering skeleton and contacts Dr. Mary Thompson at Idaho Museum of Natural History.
- ▶ Mary Thompson assists with plaster jacketing and recovery of mammoth with ISU students.
- ▶ Approximately 10-15% of mammoth was recovered.



# Background

- ▶ Olsen family contacted Dr. Thompson in early 2017 to consider recovering rest of mammoth.
- ▶ Dr. Speer visited site with Dr. Thompson to discuss plan with Olsen family for recovery through field school.
- ▶ Dr. Speer acquired funding for radiocarbon dating and ground penetrating radar (GPR).





# Background



Mammoth bone  
fragments from 2014  
excavation.

- ▶ Dr. Speer submitted samples for radiocarbon dating; dates bracket mammoth between 14,500-15,500BP.
  - ▶ This is important because it may be that some of the earliest people in the New World either killed or scavenged this animal.
- ▶ Dr. Speer performed GPR over spring break of 2018 and identified two major targets.
- ▶ 2018 field school revealed several tops of bone exactly where predicted by GPR.
- ▶ 2019 field school will run from May 6 – May 31.



# What do you need to do?



- ▶ Transportation to site
- ▶ Accommodations
  - ▶ Students must stay at local hotel or with friends/relatives in Twin Falls.
    - ▶ Double occupancy is allowed to save on costs.
  - ▶ No camping is allowed.
  - ▶ Students can return home on weekends.
- ▶ Food
  - ▶ Yeti ice chest and grill will be available for your food storage.
  - ▶ Hotel will provide breakfast every day and dinner on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.
  - ▶ Dr. Speer pays for Thursday pizza nights out!
- ▶ Tools
  - ▶ If you cannot afford to buy your own tools they will be provided for you.



# What will you learn?



- ▶ Excavation Techniques
- ▶ Artifact and faunal ID
- ▶ Mapping with Total Station
- ▶ 3D site scanning
- ▶ Workshops in flintknapping, geoarchaeology, and Pleistocene megafauna



# What to expect working?

- ▶ Work M-F 9AM-5PM
- ▶ Kneeling and digging with hand tools
- ▶ Lifting and moving buckets of soil
- ▶ Standing and sifting soil
- ▶ Recording site information
- ▶ Variable weather





# More Information

- ▶ Legal Documents
- ▶ Release Waiver
- ▶ Cost
  - ▶ Tuition - 6 hours credit
    - ▶ \$2,154 (359 per credit hour)
  - ▶ Class fee \$720
    - ▶ Truck and trailer
    - ▶ Portable toilets
    - ▶ Equipment
    - ▶ Consumables
    - ▶ Ice
  - ▶ Room & Board \$1,500-2,000
    - ▶ Breakfast everyday
    - ▶ Dinner 3 nights
    - ▶ Swimming pool
    - ▶ Free WIFI
    - ▶ Double occupancy allowed at hotel
    - ▶ Weekends not required to stay at hotel
- ▶ Student Manual
- ▶ Excavation and Lab Manual
- ▶ Supply List







































THANK YOU!

Any questions?