



**THE SNOWMASTODON PROJECT™**  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE



**Peoples Press**  
Minds Wide Open

## Museum Announces Plans for “Digging Snowmastodon” Book

*Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Aspen-based People’s Press partner on first-person account of historic Ice Age fossil find near Snowmass Village*

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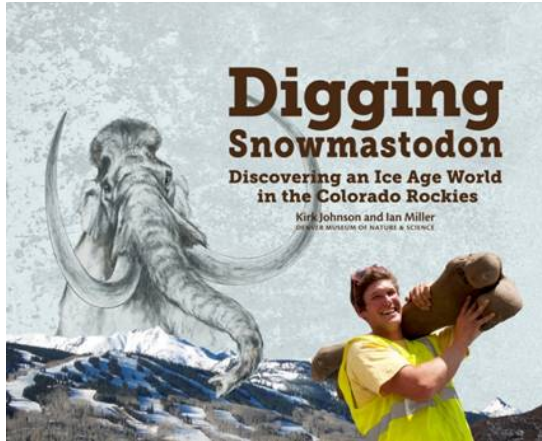
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**DENVER / ASPEN – December 19, 2011** – The Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Aspen-based People’s Press are publishing a first-person account of the historic Ice Age fossil find near Snowmass Village. ***Digging Snowmastodon: Discovering an Ice Age World in the Colorado Rockies*** describes the events surrounding the amazing discovery, the excitement and emotion of the dig itself, and the colorful cast of characters who each played important roles as the story unfolded.

“This incredible discovery captured everyone’s attention,” said Dr. Kirk Johnson, leader of the Snowmastodon Project™ excavation team and vice president of the Research and Collections Division at the Museum. “It played out in the headlines of local, national, and international media, including the *New York Times* and *National Geographic*. This is our opportunity to share the inside scoop and describe what it was really like to be there and experience it in person. Anyone who is interested in discovery, natural history, or paleontology will relish this true story.”

Infused with humor and offering the unique perspectives of Johnson and Dr. Ian Miller, a Museum scientist and co-leader of the dig, this compelling narrative clearly illustrates the science of the fossil find. The 10X8 paperback, written for a general audience and available on March 15, 2012, is 144 pages long and includes more than 100 color photos, five historic black and white photos, and more than 15 color illustrations, line drawings, and maps. The book will be available for purchase at the Museum for \$19.95 and distributed both locally and nationally. To learn more about *Digging Snowmastodon* and purchase advance copies, visit [www.diggingsnowmastodon.com](http://www.diggingsnowmastodon.com).

NOTE: High Resolution image of book cover (shown below) available upon request.



### **About The Snowmastodon Project™**

In October 2010, a bulldozer operator working near a Colorado ski area uncovered the tusk of a young female mammoth. Over the next 10 months, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science conducted its largest-ever fossil excavation, yielding a treasure trove of well-preserved Ice Age fossils. Museum crews uncovered 5,000 bones of 41 kinds of Ice Age animals, including mammoths, mastodons, ground sloths, camels, deer, horses, and giant bison. The preserved series of Ice Age fossil ecosystems is one of the most significant fossil discoveries ever made in Colorado. This discovery at Ziegler Reservoir near Snowmass Village will change forever our understanding of alpine life in the Ice Age. To learn more, visit [www.dmns.org/science/the-snowmastodon-project](http://www.dmns.org/science/the-snowmastodon-project).

### **About the Denver Museum of Nature & Science**

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is the Rocky Mountain Region's leading resource for informal science education. A variety of engaging exhibits, discussions, and activities help Museum visitors celebrate and understand the natural wonders of Colorado, Earth, and the universe. The Museum is located at 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO, 80205. To learn more about the Museum, check [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org), or call 303-370-6000. Many of the Museum's educational programs and exhibits are made possible in part by generous funding from the citizens of the seven-county metro area through the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

### **About People's Press**

People's Press publishes stories—in words and images—that come from the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado and beyond. People's Press considers it is the people that make a community, and it is their stories and photos that narrate history. People's Press: minds wide open. More: [www.peoplespress.org](http://www.peoplespress.org).

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