Idaho State University
2019 Archaeology
Field School

MAY 6TH THROUGH MAY 31TH
Olsen Mammoth Site
Kimberly, Idaho
10 minutes outside of Twin Falls
1.5-2 hour drive from Pocatello
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.
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.
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

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?