

Inland Geological Society

Newsletter of the Inland Geological Society Volume 38 No. 9

November 2026

Next Meeting:

Tuesday,
November 3rd

Time:

Social: 6:00pm
Dinner 6:15pm
Presentation:
7:00pm

Location:

3 Iron
Brewing Company
898 South Via Lata,
Suite A
Colton, CA 92324

Coming to Dinner?

Students \$10
IGS Members \$15
Non-Members \$20
Please RSVP by
October 30th to:

rsvp.igs@gmail.com

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"The Columbian Mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*): Age, Geology, and Evolutionary History"

Abstract

*The fossilized remains of a Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*) were recovered from the Diamond Valley Lake located in Riverside County, California. The remains were discovered during excavations affiliated with the Eastside Reservoir Project in the late 1990s, and curated for display at the Western Science Center in Hemet, California (where it was named Xena). The specimen dates to the late Pleistocene, during the last cycles of the Ice Age, approximately 13,000 years ago. It represents one of the most complete Columbian mammoth skeletons from the Diamond Valley Lake, providing an opportunity to examine and extrapolate ontogenetic development, morphology, and taphonomic history of the Pleistocene proboscideans that once dominated the North American continent. Recovered material includes molars, tusks, the cranium, portions of limb bones, and vertebrae. Molar eruption sequences, tusk morphology, and skeletal fusion are examined to interpret age and determine sex. The presence of unerupted molars, low lamellar frequency, the state of occlusal wear, tusk growth, and unfused components of the skeleton together suggest that the individual was a subadult male at time of death, with an estimated age of 18 to 20 years. Different states of wear of the tusks indicate a preferential use of the left tusk. Although the specimen is incomplete due to post-mortem weathering and fragmentation from the elements, the remaining preserved material provides valuable insight into mammoth development during the Pleistocene.*

Speaker Biography:

Kian McElfresh is a recent graduate of the University of California Riverside, with skills in paleontology and evolutionary history. Through working with Mary Droser and the Western Science Center, he produced his undergraduate thesis on the importance and analysis of Columbian mammoths. He is a recipient of multiple field studies awards that funded his research, and acted as president for the Geology Student Organization while at UCR. As an early career paleontologist, he specializes in mammalian evolution and the ontogeny of mammoths.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Inland Geological Society will meet the first Tuesday of each month at:

3 Iron Brewing Company

898 South Via Lata , Suite A

Colton, California 92324

(<https://www.3ironbrewingco.com>)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

Visit our:

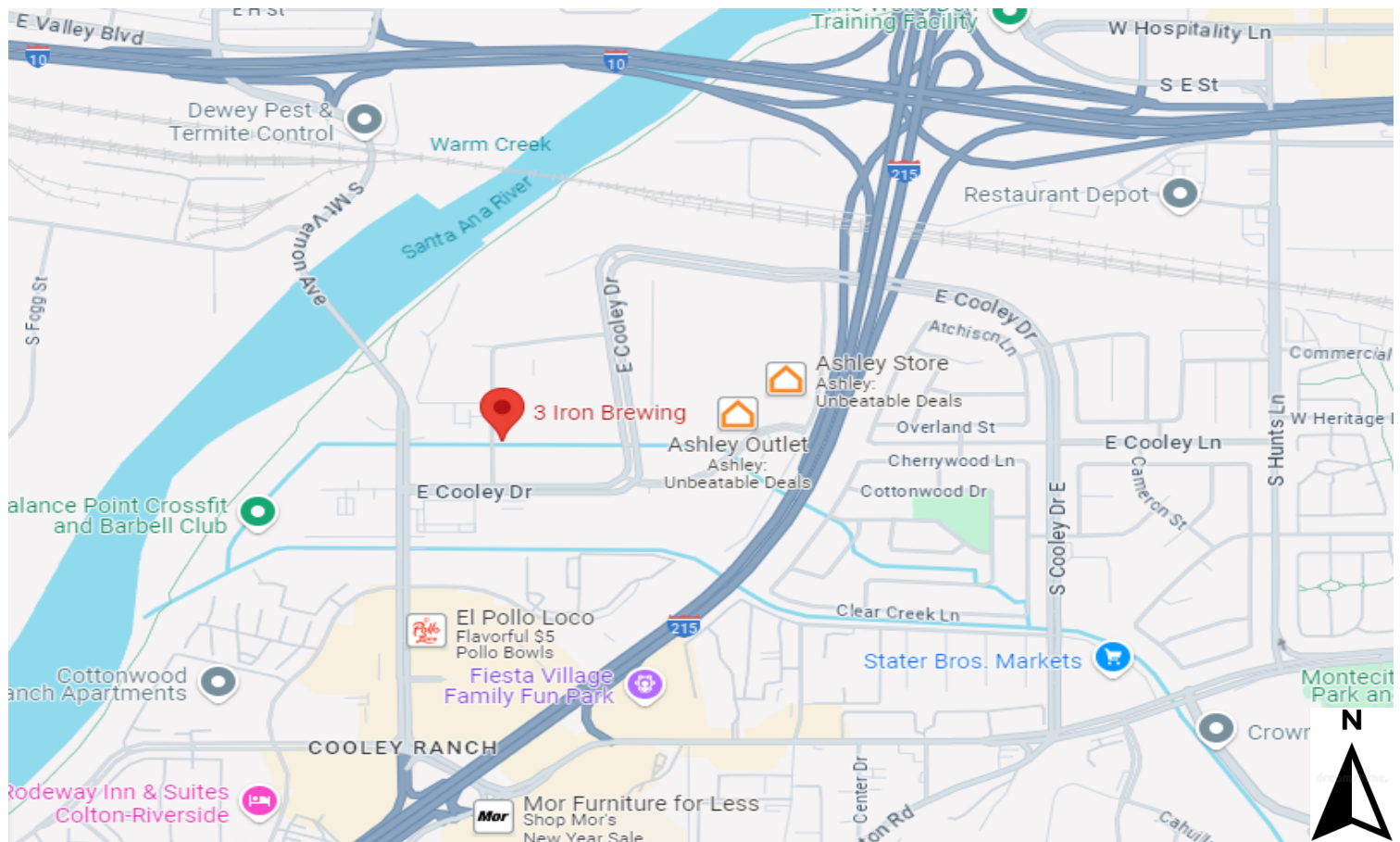
- Webpage at <https://www.inlandgeo.org/>
- Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/InlandGeo/>
- Instagram Page at <https://www.instagram.com/inlandgeosociety/>

IGS coffee mugs are available at the monthly meetings for \$10. Get yours at the upcoming m





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