Lehner Mammoth-Kill Site

Archaeologists discovered 13,000-year-old remains of Pleistocene (late Ice Age) animals killed by Clovis hunters along with artifacts left by the Paleo Indian group at this site. There is nothing here but a marker near the road. Plans call for a trail and interpretive displays. There is no connection from here to the San Pedro Trail system.

History: At the end of the last Ice Age a group of Native Americans roamed most of North America. They specialized in hunting large animals but also utilized smaller animals and plants. Archaeologists have named this group the Clovis Culture, because the first evidence of them was found near Clovis, New Mexico. The Clovis are the oldest identified North American culture, one of the Paleo Indian (Old Indian) groups of that era. The Clovis were master stone workers who produced a distinctive spear point known as the Clovis Point. These points are an unmistakable sign of Clovis presence.

In 1952, Ed Lehner found fossilized bones of now-extinct animals from the Pleistocene on his ranch near the San Pedro River. Dr. Emil Haury of the Arizona State Museum came here to excavate the site in 1955-1956. Haury's team found two Clovis spearpoints wedged between the fossilized ribs of a mammoth during their first season of work. A second excavation was conducted in 1974-1975 by the University of Arizona's Dr. C. Vance Haynes. Lehner was the first Clovis site found with fire hearths, a campsite, and the use of small animals. The fossilized remains of 12 immature mammoths, a horse, a tapir, several bison (an extinct species), a camel, a bear, several rabbits, and a garter snake have been found. Thirteen Clovis Points, stone debris from toolmaking, the remains of butchered animals, and fire hearth features have been excavated here.

The Lehner Mammoth-Kill Site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1967. The Lehner family donated the land to the BLM in 1988 to become part of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). Ed Lehner was one of the founders of the Friends of the San Pedro River and worked to see that the area became a Federal preserve.

**Access:** The Lehner Mammoth Kill-Site is open to the public. It is reached via the Lehner Road which is not graveled and may be muddy when wet.

**Facilities:** There are no facilities or trailhead at the site. There is no connection to the San Pedro Trail. There is limited parking and no room for horse trailers.

**Pets** must be leashed in all developed facilities and in other posted areas. All dogs must be kept under direct control at all times. Clean up after your dog and pack out the waste. There are dog waste stations provided.

**Camping:** Camping is not allowed at the parking area. Backcountry camping is allowed 1/2 mile away from the parking area, public roads, or the excavation area. Permits are required, available from self-service dispensers located at most trailheads, and there is a $2 a per person per night fee.

**Dispose of Waste Properly:** Pack out all your trash.

**Leave What You Find:** Vegetation, archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and artifacts are protected by federal law. It is illegal to damage, destroy or remove any artifacts or structures in the SPRNCA. Metal detecting is not permitted.

**Respect the Neighbors:** Public lands in this area are intermingled with private property, residences, and ranching activity. Private land is not open to public use.
San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area
Lehner Mammoth-Kill Site

Directions: From Sierra Vista go south and east towards Bisbee on Highway 92, north on Palominas Road 1.75 miles to Lehner Road, and east 0.5 mile on dirt road to the parking area.

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