



TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT QUICK FACTS



- Tule Springs spans almost 23,000 acres just north of the Las Vegas Valley.



- In 1933, quarry workers unearthed a pile of bones from a mammoth. The site became known as "Tule the Baby Mammoth." This discovery led to the Tule Springs expedition, led by paleontologist Fenley Hunter of the American Museum of Natural History.
- Scientists continued to research the area for decades, hoping to find evidence of early contact between early humans and extinct late ice age animals.
- In 1962-63, scientists from the Nevada State Museum conducted the "Big Dig." It was at this site that scientists first field-tested the technique of radiocarbon dating in the United States.
- April 20, 1979, Tule Springs was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its importance in understanding paleoenvironments and for its association with important advances in archeological methods and analysis, including radiocarbon dating.
- In 2004, almost 10,000 fossils were removed from the southern portion of the area and curated in the San Bernardino County Museum in California.
- The area contains the single largest assemblage of ice age fossils in the Southwest, spanning geologic history from 7,000 to 200,000 years before present. It is a continuous record found nowhere else.
- Thousands of ice age mammal fossils have been discovered at Tule Springs including Columbian mammoth, ground sloth, American lion, ancient camel, dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, bison, and three ancient species of horse.
- Tule Springs supports four unique and imperiled plants, the Las Vegas buckwheat, Merriam's bearpoppy, Las Vegas bearpoppy, and halfring milkvetch, as well as Joshua trees and several species of cacti.
- Tule Springs plays an important role in the history of the Las Vegas Paiute tribe, as it was the seasonal migration route that its ancestors used centuries ago when they split their time between Mt. Charleston in summer and the valley in winter.
- Tule Springs provides important habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, burrowing owls, kit foxes, and several other wildlife species that are recognized for protection under the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Four species of raptors utilize the Las Vegas Wash for meeting their habitat needs – kestrels, barn owls, burrowing owls, and great horned owls.



For more information, please visit [nps.gov/tusk](https://www.nps.gov/tusk) or [tulespringslv.com](https://www.tulespringslv.com).