



## Site 1

# Grandest of All

WELCOME TO THE LIVING HISTORY BUFFALO TRAIL TOUR by the Dakota Buttes Visitors Council of Hettinger, ND. Our tour begins with a close-up look at the animal William Hornaday called the Grandest of them all.

Meet Prairie Thunder, our magnificent full mount buffalo harvested in early January 2009 during a 20-below-zero cold snap when his deep brown hair had grown to its finest. His hair varies in length from 3.5 to 5 inches. Typically, he's in the front exhibit hall of Dakota Buttes Museum to greet visitors. But he wanders the hallways and rooms of the main museum on occasion to attend special events.

You'll find him hard to miss. Prairie Thunder stands 5.5 feet high at the shoulder and is 8.5 feet in length from nose to tail. He was judged at close to 2,000 pounds. His horns span 30 inches at their widest point.

The buffalo has long captured the imagination of people everywhere,

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Above: *Prairie Thunder takes a stroll in Dakota Buttes Museum, Hettinger. Photo by Bonnie Smith, Hettinger.* At right: *Buffalo statue marks corner of Hettinger's Centennial Park and Chamber of Commerce office. Photo by Francie M. Berg; Background: Lisa Honeyman, Badlands Reflections, Dickinson, ND.*