



Site 2

Hiddenwood Hunt—June 1882

YOU ARE STANDING ON A HISTORIC SPOT.

This is where “The Great Buffalo Hunt” began on or about June 20, 1882, in this broad fertile valley near Hiddenwood Cliff.

Look off to the east in the direction of Fort Yates. This is where most of the Lakota hunters were coming from, riding low and quiet up the creek. They had not yet caught sight of what was ahead, what their scouts told them was here.

Hiddenwood Creek flows along the hills, heading east, marking at this point the border between North and South Dakota. Between this higher spot where you stand and the creek beyond is a level area, rich with the high protein grasses of the Northern Plains. This region was favored by large herds of nomadic grazing animals—buffalo, elk, pronghorn antelope, whitetail and mule deer.

Let’s imagine this valley as it was on that delightful June morning in 1882, filled with an immense herd of buffalo. The big animals grazed

In June 1882 hunters from Fort Yates caught sight of what they thought never to see again: A herd of buffalo grazing in the distance near Hiddenwood Cliff. Indians Sighting Buffalo, 1896, Charles M. Russell. Amon Carter Museum.