



## Site 4

# Slim Buttes Winter Hunt

A BEAUTIFUL, HIGHER-ALTITUDE AREA OF PINE HILLS, the Slim Buttes are about an hour's drive from Hettinger and a delightful place for hiking and picnicking.

For a spectacular view, at the end of the final loop, climb the short trail to the top of the small hill on the left. Far below are huge clay formations that have been called “steamships, battleships and castles.” Grasslands spread on various levels where undoubtedly Native hunters pursued buffalo in deep snow during their memorable winter hunt.

Find a scenic place where you might enjoy viewing buffalo—or joining the hunt, if you imagine you were riding with the Lakota hunters and Thomas Riggs. Their hunting trip lasted many weeks, so most any butte or rugged draw in and near the buttes recreates that hunt as they must have covered them all.

Let your imagination wander. It was the winter of the big snow and

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*Huge rock and clay formations—often called castles and battleships—carve through rough country around the Slim Buttes. Party of 101 Lakota hunted here for many weeks in deep snow winter of 1880-1881. Near Reva, SD. Photo by Carole Rosencrans, Hettinger.*