A Bison Tale:

The Inherent Power of the Model 89



The following story is an account of a Bison hunt Big Horn Armory Founder, Greg Buchel, went on several years ago with his Model 89:

I always enjoy showing the power of our rifles. It generally amazes people that are unfamiliar with them. Hunting bison a couple of years ago at a local ranch, the ranch manager was used to people coming with all sorts of rifles and calibers. Some were effective, others less so.

The Model 89 in 500 S&W Magnum did not impress him at first viewing. He thought the rifle was somewhat small in size. He was cautious to the extreme. On the day of the hunt, we got to within about 80 yards of a herd of bison. The ranch manager pointed out the animal to take. I could see he was concerned that this was not going to work out well. I casually drew a bead on the broadside of the animal just behind the shoulder and squeezed the trigger.

The bison, hit just above the heart and through both lungs, took two steps while snorting out a gallon or so of blood, and then fell lifeless to the ground.

The ranch manager was busy for the next few moments shooing the rest of the herd away from the downed animal. Once we strolled up to the carcass, the ranch manager had a big smile on his face. While we were gutting the animal, he mentioned that he had never seen such an effective shot from any of his previous hunts on the ranch, even when typical African cartridges were used to shoot the bison. Like many others, he came to realize the power inherent in the small package of the Model 89.



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