

# The Rise of Big-Bore Hunting: Why More Hunters Are Choosing Larger Calibers



In recent years, a noticeable shift has been taking place across the hunting and backcountry communities—one that's hard to ignore. More and more hunters are trading in their light, flat-shooting cartridges for something bigger, bolder, and undeniably more powerful. Big-bore hunting is on the rise.

But this isn't just about chasing more recoil or bragging rights at deer camp. The growing interest in big-bore calibers is rooted in practical needs,

real-world performance, and a changing perspective on what's truly necessary when venturing into the wild.

## Big-Bore for the Big Game—and Bigger Consequences

Hunters across North America are facing environments that demand more from both the hunter and the rifle. Whether you're trekking deep

into grizzly country, calling elk in the timber, or protecting yourself from the unexpected, big-bore calibers offer something that lighter rounds simply can't: immediate and unmistakable authority.

Calibers like the .500 S&W Magnum, .460 S&W Magnum, .454 Casull, .475 Linebaugh, and .500 Linebaugh were once seen as specialty rounds, often relegated to revolvers or niche firearms. But in recent years, their utility in rifles has gained serious traction—and for good reasons. These heavy-hitting cartridges deliver tremendous energy on target, making them ideal for hunting large or dangerous game in dense cover where follow-up shots need to count.

## **Why the Shift?**

### **1. One Shot Confidence**

Big-bore rounds offer something every hunter appreciates: the confidence that a well-placed shot will anchor the animal quickly and humanely. When you're up against tough-bodied animals like moose, bear, or hogs, that kind of knockdown power matters.

### **2. Versatility in the Field**

A large caliber lever-action rifle is as effective at dispatching a bull elk as it is providing peace of mind in bear country. For hunters who like to do it

all with one rifle, big-bore offers flexibility without compromise.



### **3. Increasing Interest in Close-Range Hunting**

Not every hunter is taking 400-yard shots across open terrain. Many are returning to the challenge and thrill of close-range pursuits—where brush, timber, and tight shooting lanes demand quick handling and serious stopping power. That's where big-bore rifles, particularly those with shorter barrels and fast follow-up capability, shine.

### **4. Practical Self-Defense in the Wild**

There's a growing awareness of the need for backcountry defense—not just from four-legged predators, but from increasingly unpredictable wilderness encounters. Rifles chambered in big-bore calibers give peace of mind when venturing off-grid.

## Where Big Horn Armory Fits In

At [Big Horn Armory](#), we've built our rifles around these exact needs. We weren't chasing trends when we began chambering lever guns in [.500 S&W](#), [.460 S&W](#), .454 Casull, .475 Linebaugh, and .500 Linebaugh—we were answering a call from hunters who knew they needed something more.

We've always believed that power, precision, and dependability should come standard. And as more hunters gravitate toward big-bore options, we're proud to be among the few offering purpose-built rifles that deliver on all three fronts.

## The Takeaway

The rise of big-bore hunting isn't about recoil junkies or overkill—it's about effectiveness, safety, and confidence in the field. Whether you're tracking game deep in the backcountry or simply want a rifle that can handle anything thrown your way, big-bore is proving to be more than a passing trend—it's a return to fundamentals.

Big-bore is back. And this time, it's here to stay.

### Ready to gear up?

Explore our lineup of big-bore lever guns and find your ultimate hunting rifle: [www.bighornarmory.com](http://www.bighornarmory.com).



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