



## Hunting North America's Giants — Big Bore Rifles from Big Horn Armory

When you're planning a hunt for moose, bison, grizzly, or other North American giants, rifle choice matters. You want proven stopping power, reliable function in the brush or backcountry, and a platform that's built for the cartridge you've chosen. [Big Horn Armory](#) has built its reputation on doing exactly that — producing lever guns and large-frame semi-autos designed around the heavy-hitting big-bore rounds capable of taking the continent's largest game.

The following is a field-tested, product-focused guide to the best BHA

options for hunting the ultimate North American trophies.

### Why Choose a Big-Bore from Big Horn Armory?

Big Horn Armory builds lever rifles and large-frame AR-style platforms specifically to handle magnum handgun and hot rifle magnum cartridges. The Model 89 lever rifle, Model 90 (and variants), and AR500 line are all engineered to withstand the pressures and recoil of big-bore cartridges while offering hunting-friendly ergonomics and sight/optic

options. If you plan to hunt in bear country or pursue heavy game where one-shot-stop performance is essential, BHA's lineup is purpose-built for that mission.

## The Heavy Hitters



### **.500 S&W Magnum — Model 89**

If nothing less than maximum handgun power delivered from a rifle will do, the Model 89 in .500 S&W Magnum is an obvious choice. The Model 89 takes full advantage of the cartridge's large bullets and energy, making it a compelling option for moose and grizzly at short to moderate ranges where big, heavy projectiles and deep penetration win the day.

**Best for:** Close-to-moderate range moose, grizzly, and as a heavy-stopping brush gun.



### **.500 Linebaugh & .475 Linebaugh — Model 89 Variants**

Linebaugh cartridges (.500 and .475) are classic big-bore rifle rounds that deliver huge frontal area and momentum. BHA offers the Model 89A chambered in .500 Linebaugh and the Model 89B in .475 Linebaugh. These cartridges pair well with the Model 89's stout action and are ideal for hunters who prefer more bullet diameter and sectional density over outright velocity.

**Best for:** Bison, heavy moose, and any situation where controlled, massive bullet mass and penetration matter most.



### **.460 S&W Magnum — Model 90**

The .460 S&W Magnum is notable for its exceptionally high velocity among big-bore handgun cartridges; when fired from a rifle platform, it delivers extended range potential combined with big-bore bullet construction. Big

Horn Armory's Model 90 is offered in .460 S&W Magnum, built on a scaled and strengthened lever-action platform designed around the cartridge. For hunters who want a lever gun that can reach out a bit farther with legal big-game bullets, the Model 90 is a strong option.

**Best for:** Moose and other large ungulates, where added velocity (and flatter trajectories) help at extended lever-gun ranges; also, a proven choice in bear country where penetration matters.

#### **.454 Casull & .45 Colt — Model 90 Family**

For hunters who prefer proven, stout cartridges with a wide range of available bullets, the Model 90 is also offered in .454 Casull (Model 90A) and .45 Colt (Model 90B). The .454 Casull provides big energy and heavy bullets that penetrate deep; the .45 Colt (in an appropriately modern, high-pressure chambering) remains a versatile, hard-hitting option for close brush and thick cover.

**Best for:** Dense country moose and big-bear defense (.454 Casull); .45 Colt is a great all-around heavy-caliber with abundant ammunition choices.



#### **500 Auto Max — AR500 Next Gen**

Big Horn Armory's AR500 Next Gen platform brings near-rifle-class energy into a semi-auto AR-style package. Chambered for the 500 Auto Max, the AR500 Next Gen pistol and rifle platforms are built to deliver enormous energy in a compact, controllable package for short-range heavy work. That makes them interesting tools for specialized hunts, guides, or outfitters who want semi-automatic follow-up capability with maximum terminal effect.

**Best for:** Short-range situations where rapid follow-up and massive terminal energy are priorities.

#### **Choosing the Right Combo for the Animal and Terrain**

- **Moose:** Big, often dense-country animals — you want heavy, well-constructed bullets and a platform you can shoot accurately from rests or sticks. Model 89 or Model 90 in .500 S&W, .500/.475 Linebaugh, or .460 S&W, offers the needed energy and penetration.

- **Bison:** Massive and tough — penetration and bullet placement are paramount. A .500 Linebaugh or .500 S&W in a well-tuned Model 89 gives you the momentum and bullet diameter to reach vitals through heavy shoulder and bone.



- **Grizzly (and coastal brown bears):** You need both penetration and reliable expansion; cartridges like .460 S&W (for velocity) or .500/.475 Linebaugh (for mass and momentum) in a durable lever gun are common choices.



- **Mixed / Guiding scenarios:** The AR500 Next Gen in 500 Auto Max offers unmatched short-range power and semi-automatic follow-up, useful for outfitters or guide rigs where rapid response is needed.

## Practical Considerations

- **Ammunition availability & handloading:** Some of the more specialized big-bores (.475/.500 Linebaugh, 500 Auto Max) require careful sourcing or handloads; BHA owners commonly handload to tailor performance for hunting.
- **Recoil management:** Lever rifles with proper stocks and modern recoil pads (and, where appropriate, ported barrels or muzzle devices) make heavy cartridges far more shootable in the field — another reason hunters choose BHA's dedicated big-bore lever platforms.

**Sights & optics:** BHA standard rifles ship with Skinner sights and have options for scout mounts and scope mounting; choose optics rated for heavy-recoil platforms and sighting solutions tuned for your effective hunting distances.

## Final Roundup — Which BHA Rifle for Which Giant?

- **Best overall single-purpose big game lever gun:** Model 89 in .500 S&W or .500/.475 Linebaugh — unbeatable in raw terminal power and classic lever-gun handling.
- **Best for extended reach with big bullets:** Model 90 in .460 S&W Magnum — higher velocity for flatter trajectory and controlled expansion.
- **Best for semi-auto short-range punch:** AR500 Next Gen in 500 Auto Max — massive energy with rapid follow-up.

## Closing Thoughts

Big Horn Armory's stable of lever guns and the AR500 Next Gen platform give hunters a rare combination: firearms purpose-built to handle some of the most powerful big-bore cartridges available today, with build quality and options tuned to hunting large-bodied North American game. Whether you're chasing bull moose in timber, stalking bison on the plains, or packing a heavy stopper for grizzly country, BHA offers field-proven rifles that put the right cartridge on target where it counts.

## 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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