

How Much Bow Power is too Much?

By Robert Glenn Willis

Yes we are all susceptible to it. That macho thing about **MORE POWER** is better. You hear it at the range. "So, how much are ya pulling? 80 pounds, You? Ahhh 82 pounds!" So, more is better, right? A modern compound bow drawing 50 lbs will shoot a properly placed arrow right through most North America big game animals hunted today except for Elk and Moose. You don't need a high draw weight to kill whitetail, mule deer, javelina, turkey, or even black bears.

OK here is another one. **MORE POWER = FLATTER TRAFECTORY** thus making you a better shot. While a faster arrow will fly flatter, more power will sacrifice accuracy. There are other ways to compensate, without sacrificing accuracy. Lighter arrows will flatten your trajectory. Although with practice any archer can overcome the effects of gravity on the arrow, but drawing more weight than one can comfortably handle will always result in an occasional errant arrow.

So how do you judge whether or not you are drawing too much weight. Well actually it's pretty easy. First drop the machoism and take a close look at how you draw your arrow. Do you have to go through any "unnatural" movements in drawing your bow? Do you have to radically shift your shoulder, does it hurt when you draw? Does your arrow keep falling off the rest? do you feel like Helga the Olympic women's gold metal shot-putter gave you a shoulder rub after you shoot? If any of these shoes fit then you're drawing too much.

Your draw should be natural and smooth. It should start by placing the bow into the aiming position and then drawing back smoothly without moving it off the target. Remember that deer is only 25 yards away and you don't need unnecessary movement. Whitetails, bear, moose and elk can all be hunted with a bow set just over 60 lbs. This is fast enough to develop kinetic energy of about 65 lbs. For hunting other game 55 lbs will do the job. OK, go on out into the yard and drop it down, besides it doesn't matter *when* you bring home the meat, does it?