



PM SHOOTS THE .460 MAGNUM

SHOOTING THE .460 Weatherby Magnum is an exciting experience. Despite its enormous power, PM's tester fired 15 rounds without damage, other than a bruised bicep from a shot fired without a secure shoulder fit with the stock. A poorly-stocked .30-06 can "kick" harder, and the .460-WM's recoil is certainly less than a lightweight 12-gauge single-shot shotgun can produce.

The secret of its comfortable shooting is partly the excellent design of the California-style mesquite stock, and partly the built-in muzzle brake provided by a pattern of drill holes in the last three inches of the barrel. They direct the gases to each side, and push the rifle against its own recoil. As a result, the recoil is minimized. The muzzle rises somewhat, as shown above, but there is no feeling of lack of control.

The .460 gives good accuracy; the best five-shot group at 100 yards measured $\frac{7}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Off-hand snap-shooting produced results comparable to any good field firearm.

Looking for an impressive penetration test, we filled a five-gallon metal can with water and fired into it from about 100 feet away. The container was rent from end to end, the 60-gallon drum on which it sat was thrown to the ground, and water drizzled down on shooter, photographer and bystanders for several seconds. The test proved nothing measurable, but it was impressive.

The .460WM rifle may be the answer to the old controversy of bullet weight versus bullet velocity for killing power on really big game. The .460WM throws a 500-grain solid bullet at a muzzle velocity of 2725 feet per second for a muzzle energy of 8245 foot/pounds. That's well above the energy of the former champ, the .600 Nitro Express (900 gr at 1950 fps for 7600 ft./lb.). The high velocity gives the big bullet a trajectory just two inches high at 100 yards when zeroed in

for 200 yards; nearly identical to the .30-06 with a 180-grain bullet. And the '06 is considered a very flat-shooting rifle.

The designer's objectives were to put that tremendous power into a comfortable-shootable, bolt-action rifle (most of the big guns are double rifles) that would kill anything that walks. It will.

In conclusion, PM's tester reports that the .460WM is ideally suited to its job of killing elephants, rhino and Cape Buffalo with minimum damage to the shooter. The price is a hefty \$525, and ammunition runs about 87½ cents a shot. But for the moment of truth with big, dangerous game, it'll do the job. ★★★

FOR COMPARISON, left to right, the 30-30, .460 Weatherby Magnum, and a .30-06 round

