

# Handgun hunting proves a challenge

By HAROLD HARTON  
Special Correspondent

Deer hunting with a handgun is more of a challenge than hunting with a rifle, since the distance of the shot must be closer than that with the rifle. As in hunting with a bow, one must take care of the blind selection, wind direction and a pre-season of study of the deer activity in a given area.

Hunting with a handgun requires a lot of practice, since trigger squeeze is a must, along with maintaining correct sight picture.

Although today many handgun hunters use the .44 Magnum, I believe a new hunter with a handgun should consider the lighter recoiling .357 Magnum. In my opinion, it is adequate for deer and antelope-sized animals.

When Douglas Wesson was doing his testing of the first .357 Magnum, before its introduction in 1935, he went to Alaska and killed moose and even the brown bear, along with caribou and wolves, using only the factory .357 Magnum loads.

The .38 Special when loaded with the same pressure level as the .357 had

performed in a very impressive manner, so Wesson knew he had something. But to prevent firing the high-pressure loads in the .38 Special revolvers of that day, he knew trouble was waiting since the revolvers suited for the .38 Special were rated for no more than about 17,000 psi.

To avoid trouble, the .357 Magnum cases were made about .12 inches longer to prevent them from being fired in .38 Special revolvers. It is possible, however, to use the .38 Special loads for practice in the .357 Magnum.

Today, the fine .357 Magnum revolvers are made to stand the high pressures and are really a pleasure to shoot compared to the .44 Magnum.

I have a Smith & Wesson Model 28 with a four-inch barrel that I have shot hundreds of

rounds through and have carried it over a good deal of real estate in the mountains of Colorado. I have sev-

eral other .357 Magnum revolvers that I use, and I know I can depend on that cartridge to do the job.



PHOTO BY HAROLD HARTON

**This collection of .357 Magnums have logged a good deal of hunting mileage through the mountains of Colorado.**

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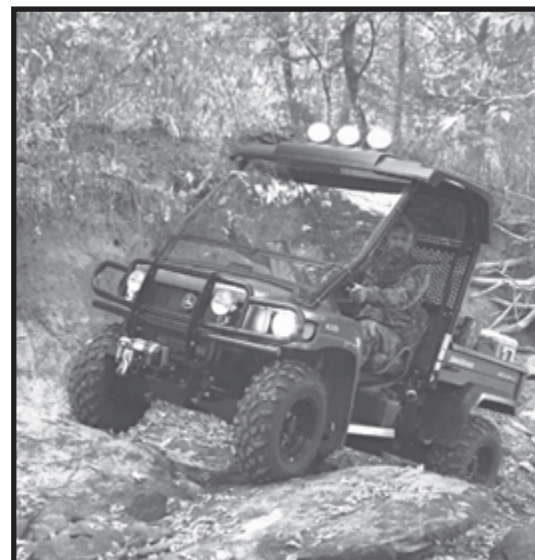
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