

The .260 Remington, a great choice

By HAROLD HARTON
Special Contributor

Ever since the .308 cartridge was introduced as the new military cartridge in 1954 as T65 -- and then as the 7.62 NATO -- the hand loaders and experimenters started necking the .30 caliber both up and down. This has produced a bunch of great cartridges from the .356 Winchester, which is the .308 necked up to .35 caliber, to the .22-08, which is the .308 necked to .224 caliber as the name implies. This is one hot varmint caliber that will match the speed and flat shooting of the .220 Swift.

The most popular and best known is the .243 Winchester, which is a .308 necked down to the .243.

Several others never made it big. One is the .25 Souper. It, of course, is the .308 necked to .257 caliber, and I have no idea where that name came from.

Its lack of success is mostly because it hit right on the ballistics of the .257 Roberts or maybe just above, which made it a competitor to the .25-06. Those are tough competitors.

The one that recently has been brought to light by Remington is the .260

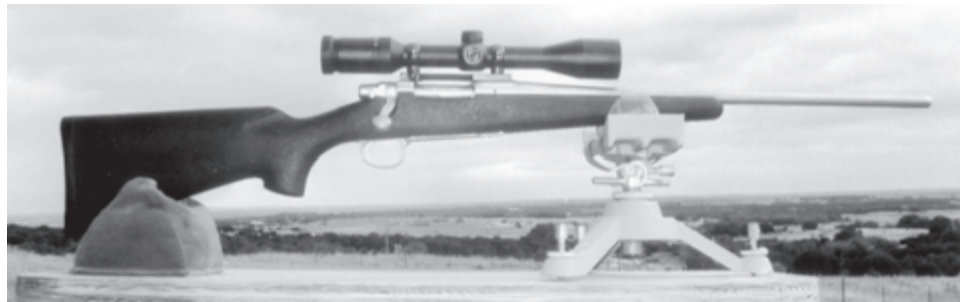


PHOTO BY HAROLD HARTON

The .260 Remington is a little jewel that produces right near the ballistics of the .270 Winchester in killing power and flat trajectory, and does so with less recoil.

Remington. This is one great cartridge and uses the right caliber of .263, or as the Germans refer to it 6.5. It serves a mass of both hunters and target shooters.

For hunters, this little jewel produces right near the ballistics of the .270 Winchester in killing power and flat trajectory, and does so with about 18 percent less recoil and burns about 12 grains less powder, which of course contributes to less recoil. The 6.5 size bullet has a long record of success in the Swedish and Finnish woods, where the 6.5X55 Swedish Mauser is, and has been, for many years the choice caliber to hunt moose in those countries. The ballistics of the 6.5 Swedish Mauser and the .260 Remington is almost identical.

While thinking of this cartridge I discovered that the long-range shooters, many of whom use the Remington 40X match rifle, have gotten groups as small as one-tenth of an inch at 100 yards. They

have found with loads tuned for the matches at long range out to 1,000 yards, the caliber performs in a very competitive way.

I have two rifles in this caliber. One is a Remington Model 7, which is a light hunting rifle. The other is a Mauser action with a medium-weight barrel. Both are very accurate and pleasant to shoot, since the recoil is not much more than the .243.

While using the 85-grain Sierra bullet with the appropriate load of selected powder, it produced 3,364 feet per second and grouped .242 inches at 100 yards. The Nosler 120-grain bullet produced 2,939 feet per second and grouped .322.

In my opinion, this would be a great choice for the younger hunter or the lady of the family. If you get a .260, I would not be surprised if the man of the house slipped it out for his next hunt.

I plan to use my Model 7 Remington .260 for the next antelope hunt.

Trappers: Observe warning signs

Trappers from the United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services department urge hunters and landowners to obey warning signs about trappers' activities during the fall and winter hunting seasons when predators are most active. Since October 2008, Wildlife Services has removed 331 coyotes and 453 feral hogs from Lampasas County properties. Predators have caused \$23,285 in losses to area producers, wildlife officials estimate.

Warning signs are placed at the entrances of properties where Wildlife Services employees are working. Traps, equipment and captured animals are USDA-Wildlife Services property. Tampering with or removing such property is a federal offense.

Wildlife Services workers assist landowners with many wildlife damage issues, including predation loss of livestock, whitetail deer and exotic game; crop and pasture damage from feral hogs; disease/parasite monitoring and aerial hunting.

To perform aerial hunting or other predator management activities, Wildlife Services employees must have signed agreements with property owners. For information, landowners may phone Patrick Flanigan, wildlife damage management technician, at 556-0532, or may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 1724, Lampasas, TX 76550.

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