

SMART QUESTIONS

IN CHOOSING A GREAT WHITETAIL CARTRIDGE

Choosing your deer rifle is a big decision. You want a cartridge that will serve you well now, in seasons to come, and as you explore new hunting opportunities and challenges.

HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE TO GET YOU STARTED:

HOW BIG SHOULD I GO?

Bullet diameter is called "caliber." For an all-around whitetail cartridge, it's best to choose:

- In the .264 to .35 caliber range.
- From cartridges that offer bullet weights of at least 130 grains to 250 grains.



WHY WOULD I NEED ANYTHING BUT A .30-30?

Classic deer cartridges like the .30-30, .35 Rem., .300 Sav. have taken millions of deer. However, other more versatile cartridges allow you to shoot farther, plus they offer more choices in rifles and greater variety in factory loads.



HOW FAR WILL IT SHOOT?

A high-power rifle bullet can travel miles, but effective killing range for deer is trickier. Ballistics charts will show you the range to which cartridges you're considering will carry 1,100 ft. lbs. of energy. Consider that its maximum effective killing range.

WHICH AMMO

Normally, acquiring common whitetail hunting ammo isn't difficult. Keep in mind, the .308 Win.,

IS THE EASIEST TO FIND?

.30-06, and .300 Win. Mag. offer the widest variety of factory-loaded ammo.



WHAT'S THE BEST ALL-AROUND?

The most popular are:

- .30-06
- .308 Win.
- .270 Win.
- .300 Win. Mag.
- 7mm Rem. Mag.

Pick one of those and you'll have a cartridge you can use forever.



HOW HARD WILL IT KICK?

There's no reason to shoot a cartridge that kicks too hard for you to handle. The 7mm-08 Rem. is an especially low-recoiling choice, shooting 140-grain bullets. In .270 Win., .308 Win., .30-06 and some others, special reduced recoil loads are offered.



WHAT ABOUT A .22 FOR WHITETAIL HUNTING?

In some states, it's legal to hunt deer with a .22 caliber centerfire cartridge. But light bullets and low energy allow zero margin for a poorly placed shot. These are cartridges for expert shooters. Same is true for most calibers with bullets less than 130 grains in weight. If you want to hunt with a Modern Sporting Rifle, look for one in 7mm-08 Rem. or .308 Win.



.223 Win. cartridge

.30-06 Win. cartridge



This should get you started making the decision of what cartridge you want to choose. Weigh the options and make the choice that's best for you. For more information about hunting, visit BassPro1Source.com.

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