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458 Win. Mag.

In 1956 Winchester introduced a rifle called the “African” for their newly designed called .458 Winchester Magnum. Their aim was the increasing number of sport hunters from the US who went on safari in Africa after big game. They wisely tried to duplicate the performance of the old and well-tried .450 Nitro Express by maintaining the .458” bullet diameter and aiming for a muzzle velocity of the same 2150 fps that made the .450 NE so successful. The designers at Winchester’s, however, utilized the fact that a bolt action can withstand a much higher working pressure than a double rifle. Experience has shown that when it comes to hunting biggest species in Africa there is little to be gained by raising the muzzle velocity of big bore cartridges much over 2200 fps.

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