

Hunting in NSW Ecological Deer Management forests

February 2015

Ecological Deer Management (EDM) is a management strategy for wild deer herds that is tailored to the needs of landholders and land managers. Deer harvest levels are set based on the number of deer in the local herd and the level of impact on the local environment, agriculture and community.

An EDM program is operating in four declared State forests:

- Maragle North State forest
- Maragle South State forest
- Mannus State forest
- Green Hills State forest.

R-licensed hunters who book a hunt in an EDM forest must comply with special EDM conditions, in addition to the standard Written Permission conditions.

Special EDM conditions only apply to hunts booked during deer season; 1 March to 31 October each year.

All licensed hunters must read this factsheet carefully to ensure they comply with their licence conditions.

Sterile surgical gloves and large plastic zip lock bags should be carried to remove and store harvested jaw bones.

Gloves and bags are available free-of-charge at the Caltex service station in Tumbarumba, located on the corner of Bridge and Winton Streets.

Special EDM conditions

There are no harvest restrictions on female deer.

Each licence holder is able to harvest **one buck** in each EDM forest per deer hunting season.

Only fork-antlered bucks (no bump or spike-antlered bucks) are able to be harvested – see the *Buck Identification Guide* available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/regulations

If a bump or spike-antlered buck is mistakenly harvested then this counts as a harvested buck and must be reported on the EDM harvest return.

You must submit an **EDM Harvest Return Form** (supplied with your WP) within 30 days of the last day of your booking for each EDM forest you have booked, **as well as the standard Harvest Return** attached to your Written Permission. **EDM Harvest Return Forms must be submitted even if you did not go hunting.**

You must remove the lower jaw from all harvested deer and either drop the jaws, with their EDM harvest return, into marked boxes at the entrance to each EDM forest (preferred), or post the jaws to the Compliance Officer, Game Licensing Unit, Lot 7 Winton Street, TUMBARUMBA NSW 2653.

If you fail to submit a harvest return or jaw, or fail to properly clean and boil submitted jaws, you may be restricted from re-booking an EDM forest for up to 12 months.

Licence holders are encouraged to supply a good quality digital image of each deer harvested. Digital photographs can be emailed to game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au with the subject line 'EDM forest harvest return photo'.

Please consider limiting your non-hunting companions to one other person when hunting in Maragle South State forest due to a lack of facilities.

If you fail to follow the conditions on your Written Permission you may be restricted from booking an EDM forest for up to 12 months

Booking restrictions

Bookings are made through the online hunt booking system. Different booking restrictions apply to different EDM forests. These booking restrictions are in addition to the special EDM conditions and the general Written Permission conditions.

Maragle South State forest

Maragle South State forest is a **Restricted EDM forest**. This means you can only book a maximum of four consecutive days in every 60 days during the deer season (i.e. licence holders will not be able to book Maragle South State forest for 60 days after their last hunting day of a four day block). If a booking is cancelled after a permit has commenced, a second booking in the 60 day period will not be allowed.

Maragle North and Green Hills State forests

Both these forests are **General EDM forests**. This means that there are no booking restrictions and licence holders are able to book for seven day periods as often as they like, provided they have no outstanding harvest returns.

Mannus State forest

Mannus State forest is also a General EDM forest with no booking restrictions; however it is a **year round bow hunting only forest**.

Frequently asked questions

Can I hunt other species in EDM forests?

Yes. During the fallow deer hunting season, (1 March to 31 October) licence holders are encouraged to hunt in EDM forests for deer as well as other listed animals. The hunting of other listed animals is also encouraged outside of the deer season (1 November to 28 February).

Am I able to scout EDM forests prior to the deer hunting season or prior to a hunting trip?

Yes. Licence holders are encouraged to scout EDM forests prior to hunting. Hunters should take care not to disturb other hunters and should always wear blaze orange, even when scouting.

Penalties for breaching EDM conditions

DPI Compliance Officers regularly inspect EDM forests to ensure compliance with EDM conditions.

Offence	Penalty
Harvesting more than one buck per EDM forest in a calendar year.	Conditions applied to licence that suspend access to public land hunting for a period to be determined by the Regulatory Authority; issuing of a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN).
Hunting outside an allocated time period.	Suspension or cancellation of R-Licence; PIN; or court action taken.
Fail to supply a cleaned jaw, EDM Harvest Return or standard Harvest Return Form within 30 days after the last day of your hunt.	Restriction from booking an EDM forest for 12 months; suspension or cancellation of R-Licence.
Fail to comply with conditions on a Written Permission.	Ranges from restrictions from booking an EDM forest for 12 months to suspension or cancellation of R-Licence.

More information

Go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or contact the DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750.

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