

Hunting in NSW Ecological Deer Management State Forests

March 2018

Ecological Deer Management (EDM) is a management strategy for wild deer herds that is tailored to the needs of landholders and land managers. Harvest levels are set based on the number of wild 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
- Maragle South
- Mannus
- Green Hills.

NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence) holders who book a hunt in an EDM forest must comply with special EDM conditions as well as the standard Written Permission (WP) conditions. The special EDM conditions only apply to hunts booked during the fallow, red and wapiti 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 are supplied with your EDM kit to aid in jawbone removal. Extra gloves and zip lock bags are available from:

- Maragle South State Forest EDM jaw box (Hopetoun Park Access Road), or
- Tumbarumba Caltex Service Station, located on the corner of Bridge and Winston Streets.

Special EDM conditions

- **There are no harvest restrictions on female deer.**
- Each licence holder may harvest **one buck** in each EDM forest per deer hunting season.
- **Only fork-antlered bucks** (no bump or spike-antlered bucks) may be harvested – see the factsheet *How to identify harvestable fallow deer in NSW Ecological Deer Management Forests and jaw extraction guide*.
- If you mistakenly harvest a bump or spike-antlered buck, it counts as a harvested buck for that forest and must be reported on your EDM harvest return.
- You must submit an **EDM Harvest Return**, supplied with your EDM Kit, within 30 days of the end of your hunt, in addition to the standard Harvest Return attached to your WP. **EDM Harvest Returns must be submitted even if you did not go hunting.**
- **You must remove the lower jaw** from all harvested deer and either:
 - drop the jaw, with the EDM Harvest Return, into the marked box at the Hopetoun Park Access Road entrance to Maragle South State Forest, or
 - mail the jaw to the Wildlife Management Team, Game Licensing Unit, 620 Macauley Street, Albury NSW 2640.
- **If you fail to submit a harvest return or jaw, or to properly clean and boil submitted jaws, you may be restricted from 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 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, in addition to these EDM conditions, you may be restricted from booking an EDM State Forest for up to 12 months.

Forest information

You can request an EDM State Forest hunt using Online licence holder services. Each forest may be booked up to 90 days in advance. One-clear-day must pass between the day you book and the first day of hunting.

Forest name	Category	Number of permits*	Closest major centre
Green Hills	1	49	Tumut
Mannus	1	4	Tumbarumba
Maragle North	1	30	Tumbarumba
Maragle South	2*	5	Tumbarumba

* Number of permits is provided as a guide and is subject to change – check Online licence holder services for current information. * Hunts for Maragle South State Forest between 1 March and 31 May are subject to a ballot.

Maragle South State Forest fallow deer hunting ballot

Due to the popularity of Maragle South State Forest, permits to hunt between 1 March and 31 May are granted by a fair and equitable hunting ballot.

For information on entering the ballot, ensure you keep your email address current and check our website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/where-can-i-hunt/maragle-fallow-deer-hunting-ballot.

Frequently asked questions

Can I hunt other species in EDM Forests?

Yes. Licence holders are encouraged to hunt in EDM State Forests for other listed animals at any time of year.

Am I able to scout EDM Forests before the deer hunting season or hunting trip?

Yes. Licence holders are encouraged to scout EDM State Forests before hunting. However, hunters should take care not to disturb other forest users and should always wear blaze orange.

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 State 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 EDM special conditions or Written Permission conditions.	Ranges from restrictions from booking an EDM forest for 12 months to suspension or cancellation of R-Licence.

More information

Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or contact the DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6363 7650.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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