

Hunting fallow deer in Maragle South State Forest

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Wildlife Management Team, NSW DPI Game Licensing Unit

Maragle South State Forest is a highly sought after forest known for deer hunting. Its popularity with hunters means that online bookings are sometimes hard to secure, especially during the fallow deer rut (March – May).

Special conditions apply to hunting wild fallow deer in Maragle South State Forest to better manage the wild fallow deer herd and ensure fair and equitable opportunity for all hunters holding a NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence). The special Maragle South conditions are in addition to standard licence and State forest conditions that licence holders must obey.

Read this factsheet carefully to ensure you comply with the special conditions that apply to hunting fallow deer in Maragle South State Forest.

Suspended regulations for deer hunting

In November 2018, some of the rules that apply to hunting wild deer in NSW were suspended to minimise the impacts of abundant herds across the State.

On public land, R-Licence holders may now:

- hunt all deer species all year-round
- hunt deer fleeing from fire or smoke
- attract deer using a bait, lure or decoy.

However, the harvest of fallow deer bucks is prohibited in Maragle South State Forest during January and February. This will be a condition of Written Permissions to hunt Maragle South in the two months preceding the ballot and game hunting inspectors will regularly patrol the forest.

Maragle South State Forest fallow deer hunting ballot

During the peak fallow deer hunting period, 1 March to 31 May each year, a ballot for written permission to hunt operates in Maragle South State Forest.

The ballot provides a fair and equal opportunity for all NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence) holders to hunt this popular forest during the peak fallow deer rut.

For information on entering the ballot, ensure you keep your email address current and check our website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting.

Special Maragle South conditions

The Maragle South State Forest special conditions apply to each calendar year.

Fallow deer you may harvest

- The harvest of **fallow deer bucks** is prohibited in Maragle South State Forest during January and February
- **There are no harvest restrictions on female fallow deer.**
- Each licence holder may **harvest one fallow deer buck** in Maragle South State Forest, per calendar year – except in January and February when no bucks may be harvested.
- **Only fork-antlered bucks** (not bump or spike-antlered bucks) may be harvested.
- If you mistakenly harvest a bump or spike-antlered buck, it counts as a harvested buck for the year and must be reported on your Maragle South Harvest Return.
- If you harvest a buck during the ballot, you must attach a tag (supplied in your ballot kit), **immediately** between the brow and trez tine.

Harvest returns

- You must submit a **Maragle South Harvest Return** with information about the fallow deer you saw and/or harvested as well as the standard harvest return attached to each Written Permission. Both harvest returns are due within 30 days after hunting and a nil return must be recorded even if you did not hunt.
- Licence holders are encouraged to supply a good quality digital image of each deer harvested. Digital photographs can be emailed to maraglesouth.ballot@dpi.nsw.gov.au with the subject line 'Maragle South State 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.

Penalties for breaching special Maragle South conditions

Offence	Penalty
Harvesting more than one buck in Maragle South State forest over 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 fallow bucks in Maragle South during January and February.	Suspension or cancellation of R-Licence; PIN; or court action taken.
Fail to comply with all conditions or	Restriction from booking State forest hunts for

submit Harvest Returns (Maragle South and standard) within 30 days of the last day of your hunt. 12 months; suspension or cancellation of R-Licence.

How to identify the age and gender of fallow deer

Mature bucks can be identified by a few distinguishing features such as a pizzle brush and mature antlers.

How to identify harvestable fallow deer		
Ok to harvest 	<p>Doe (unrestricted)</p> <p>Allowable harvest: unrestricted</p> <p>Identification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the identifying buck features. 	
	<p>Mature buck (restrictions)</p> <p>Allowable harvest: 1 buck per hunter, per EDM forest, per season</p> <p>Identification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinct pizzle brush Fork or palmated antlers Adam's apple A distinct, thickened neck during breeding season. 	
Do not harvest 	<p>Bump/spike-antlered buck</p> <p>Allowable harvest: NIL – do not harvest</p> <p>Identification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A distinct pizzle brush Bump or spike antlers 	

More information

Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or contact the Wildlife Management Team on 02 6051 7772 or maraglesouth.ballot@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

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