

# FERAL WHITETAIL DEER



**Figure 1 - Sika deer**  
(photo Department of Conservation)

## Introduction

Feral Whitetail deer are widespread in the coastal forest on Stewart Island, but are not found on mainland Southland.

Environment Southland aims to prevent any feral whitetail deer populations establishing on mainland Southland.

Whitetail deer are currently managed as a recreational hunting animal on Stewart Island. Permits for hunting Whitetail in Rakiura National Park must be obtained from the Department of Conservation.

## What is the problem?

Whitetail deer cause damage to native forests by browsing on their favourite trees, shrubs and seedlings. They can reduce the variety of forest plants to those plants that are less palatable or can survive deer browse.

## Pest Classification

Feral Whitetail deer have “wild animal” status under the Wild Animal Control Act (1977).

Feral Whitetail deer are **Containment** animals throughout the Southland region.

## Strategy Rules

1. No person shall release into the wild any Whitetail Deer within the Southland region.
2. Every person who sees any Feral Whitetail deer, or suspects that any Feral Whitetail deer is present in Southland (except on Stewart Island), must immediately report the sighting or possible presence to Environment Southland.

## Advice & Information

To find out more information contact:

Biosecurity Officer  
Environment Southland  
Private Bag 90116, Invercargill

**Phone** 03 211 5115  
**Toll free** 0800 76 88 45  
**Fax** 03 211 5252  
**E-mail** [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz)  
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Map - Southland Region Feral Whitetail Deer Containment Area