



Sportshow report gives folks a look around the state

Reports from the Northwest Sportshow, which continues through Sunday at the Minneapolis Convention Center:

➤ Deer in northern Minnesota appear to be doing well, thanks in part to the recent warm-up, according to resort owners and others at the show. Deep snow in January and February, particularly in the northeast, caused some concern about possible heavy winter losses of whitetails. But those worries seem to have subsided. And while additional snow is likely this month, the longer days and higher angle of the sun likely will ensure that most deer alive in the state today will see spring.

➤ Far less snow has accumulated this winter across much of the Dakotas, where pheasants are doing well, particularly in South Dakota.

➤ Ringnecks in western and southern Minnesota had to endure more snow this winter than their North Dakota and South Dakota counterparts. Still, far less snow is in southern Minnesota this winter than in the north. So pheasants here should head into the important spring nesting season in good shape.

➤ Some Minnesota hunters are giving state of North Dakota representatives at the show an earful about non-resident hunting restrictions and license costs. North Dakota's Legislature doesn't meet this year, so don't look for many (if any) changes to current duck and pheasant hunting regulations in that state.

➤ In the show's "Travelin' Fish



Dennis Anderson

mile-long portage is often rough, especially in spring, and slow to cross. The jet boat

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➤ Some Canadian outfitters and resort owners — coming off a relatively slow year in 2003 — report that bookings are up for the coming summer. But in some cases bookings aren't as plentiful as they were before 9/11. Last year, some American hunters and anglers canceled trips to Canada after a few Canadian politicians spoke out against America's war on Iraq. The discovery of mad cow disease in a single animal in Alberta didn't help. In an attempt to further recoup lost business, some Canadian outfitters this year are discounting trips, particularly for

“A novel development...”

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