



NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota State Water Commission

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Office of the State Engineer once again ramping up efforts to reduce littering and glass container violations

With summer approaching, the Office of the State Engineer will once again be ramping up efforts to reduce littering and glass container violations on the Missouri River. Signs are posted at several access points along the Missouri River making the public aware that littering and the possession of glass containers on the river's beaches and sandbars is prohibited.

"We would like to remind people to please keep your beaches clean. The Missouri River and its sandy beaches are an outstanding resource and asset to our state, and are particularly beneficial for local recreation," said State Engineer Todd Sando. "We saw an improvement last summer with less litter being left behind, but it continues to happen more often than it should."

Littering and glass container use are both prohibited on Missouri River sandbars. The fine for littering on beaches and sandbars carries a maximum penalty of \$250 and the possession of glass containers carries a fine of \$100.

Sando also stressed, "Bare feet and broken glass on beaches makes for a serious health hazard, which is why glass containers are prohibited on public beaches. For North Dakota's major waterways, it's no different – because once there's broken glass on a beach, it can be a danger for anyone using that area for years to come."

People using Missouri River beaches and sandbars are being asked to clean up after themselves and avoid the use of glass containers. Anyone witnessing littering or glass container violations are encouraged to call the Report All Poachers line at (800) 472-2121 or to inform violators that those acts are finable offenses.