



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Omaha District

News Release

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Contact:
(402) 221-3913/3916

Violators of burial, archeological sites subject to substantial penalties

Omaha, Neb.— The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asks visitors to recreational areas along the Missouri River to follow appropriate procedures if they unexpectedly discover human remains or cultural artifacts along the shoreline.

Water level fluctuations can cause erosion along shorelines, uncovering and exposing burial grounds and archeological sites. Recreationists as well as casual beachcombers are advised that human remains and cultural artifacts are protected by law. Violators are subject to significant penalties for disturbing burial sites and human remains, and collecting artifacts without authorization.

Visitors should not touch or remove remains or artifacts. Instead, they should note the location of the remains or artifacts, and contact the nearest corps office or a local law enforcement official, who will notify the corps.

The corps will ensure appropriate parties are contacted. Human remains repatriation is handled in close coordination between federal, state, and tribal officials in accordance with the laws, regulations and agreements between the corps, tribes, and other appropriate parties. The corps is the federal agency responsible for administering the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

If the remains are determined to be Native American in origin, the corps makes every effort to determine affiliation, notify appropriate representatives of the affiliated tribe and begin consultation regarding reinterment. Law enforcement and health officials recover any remains, which are associated with or suspected of association with a crime.

Local Corps Contacts. Lake and/or Project Manager telephone numbers are:

- Lake Sakakawea, Riverdale, N.D. (701) 654-7411 or -7441 (x 3200)
- Lake Oahe, Pierre, S.D. (605) 224-5862
- Lake Sharpe, Ft. Thompson, S.D. (605) 245-2255 or -2331
- Lake Francis Case, Pickstown S.D. (605) 487-7847
- Lewis & Clark Lake, Yankton, S.D. (402) 667-7873