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For Immediate Release: Friday, June 3, 2011

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Emergency “No Wake Zone” Enacted on McCook Lake in Union County

PIERRE, S.D. – In order to protect private and public property surrounding McCook Lake in Union County, Governor Dennis Daugaard has established a ‘no wake zone’ effective at 8 am on Saturday, June 4, 2011. Boat speeds on the McCook Lake, except under emergency, shall be reduced to comply with this no wake requirement. This order will be in effect until rescinded by the Governor.

State law gives the Governor authority to prohibit or restrict recreational use or navigation on any portion of a river, lake or stream in order to protect the public peace, health, or safety, according to Jeff Vonk, Secretary of the State Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

“Increased discharges through the mainstem reservoirs on the Missouri River have caused the water levels on the lower portion Missouri River to rise substantially. As the water levels on the Missouri River continue to rise, levels on the McCook Lake will rise as well. Lakeshore residents at McCook Lake, working through the McCook Lake Recreation Area Association, have requested this ‘no wake zone’ designation from the Governor as a means to reduce the likelihood of additional damage to their shorelines and private property,” Vonk said.

Fishing and boating are popular summer family activities,” Vonk said. “We are asking those boaters and fishermen who plan to use McCook Lake to show consideration to homeowners who are being impacted by high water levels.”

Notices of the No Wake Zone will be posted at boating access sites on McCook Lake. A violation of the public waterway restriction is a Class 2 Misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a fine of \$500 or both.

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