

October 4, 2016

Dear Friend,

American Bird Conservancy is writing to you and all other federal mine claim holders to ask your help in saving the thousands of birds that accidentally get trapped in open pipes and die each year. These include pipes often used as mine claim monuments.

You will be glad to know that there is a solution, and that we are seeing great progress toward eliminating this preventable source of mortality for birds and other wildlife. With your help, we can make even greater strides.

The National Mining Association, Northwest Mining Association, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have teamed up with American Bird Conservancy to create the flier included with this letter. This flier explains the threat to birds and other wildlife that open pipes create, and it was sent by BLM to all mine claim holders to raise awareness and ask for your help.

In addition, BLM, which handles federal mining claims, has promised to identify and remove open pipes on the lands it manages (Instruction Memorandum No. 2016-023).

This memo included voluntary guidance asking all mine claim holders to please:

- 1) Use monuments to mark new mine claims that are wildlife-safe and made from naturally occurring materials.
- 2) Replace existing open-pipe PVC monuments with wildlife-safe monuments on active claims.
- 3) Remove open-pipe monuments within boundaries of their claims deemed closed.

BLM has developed a pamphlet (P-470) that depicts examples of wildlife-safe monuments. And there may be volunteer help available to remove old markers; BLM is already organizing partners including mining companies, Boy Scout troops, and birding clubs to remove PVC pipes.

Please help conserve birds by using wildlife-safe monuments on active mine claims, and support efforts to remove markers from areas now closed. Thanks for considering these requests. If you have any questions, please contact me at sholmer@abcbirds.org. For additional information about American Bird Conservancy, please visit our website at www.abcbirds.org.

Sincerely,



Steve Holmer
Senior Policy Advisor
American Bird Conservancy

