



Cactus Wren © Mark Wagner/Wikipedia (Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 license)



Western Meadowlark



Western Flycatcher



Mountain Bluebird



Ladder-Backed Woodpecker

DRAFT

# Request to Mining Claimants on Federal Land

## Help Eliminate Hazards to Birds and Other Wildlife



A Student Conservation Association volunteer pulls a PVC mining claim marker on Nevada public lands in July 2012.



## Open-Pipe Mining Claim Markers Pose a Threat to Birds and Other Wildlife

Open-pipe mining claim markers, such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes, can be lethal to migratory birds and other wildlife. Small animals, particularly birds, mistake the openings of these markers as hollow areas suitable for roosting, nesting, or a way to gather together to pool body heat. Once inside, these animals become trapped by the smooth, narrow wall of the pipe, which prevents them from grappling their way back up or extending their wings to fly out. Death from dehydration or starvation follows. Cactus wrens, mountain bluebirds, western meadowlarks, flycatchers, and woodpeckers have all been found within open-pipe mining claim markers.

## Replace Markers to Prevent Unnecessary Deaths of Birds and Other Wildlife

The BLM requests the help of mining claimants to prevent the death of wildlife, including some birds that may be addressed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. You can prevent unnecessary deaths of birds and other

wildlife by removing, replacing, or remediating all open-pipe markers on your active mining claim or site. Even if you did not use open-pipe markers to locate your mining claim or site, these markers may have been left on your claim by previous mining claimants.

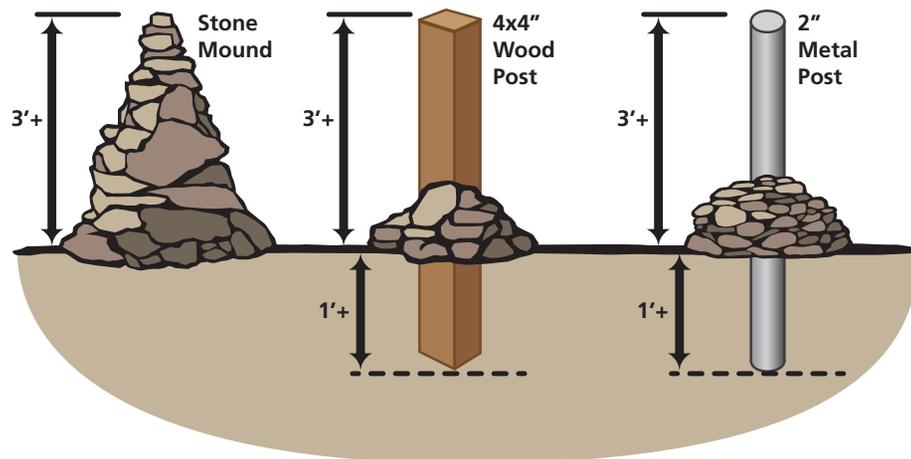
## What You Can Do to Help

- **REPLACE** all open or PVC pipes marking your active mining claim or site with wildlife-safe markers. All of the marker in Figure 1 are wildlife-safe. Be sure to consult state law to verify which wildlife-safe markers are allowable where your mining claim or site is located.
- **REMEDiate** open-pipe markers, if immediate replacement is not possible and your state still allows this type of marker. To remediate open-pipe markers and reduce the chances of wildlife deaths, fill the open pipe or place a cement cap on the end.
- **REMOVE** and properly dispose of any open-pipe markers on your claim or site left by previous mining claimants.

Thank you for your help in our effort to reduce the number of unnecessary bird and other wildlife deaths.

For more information, please visit <http://www.blm.gov/rlkd>.

**Figure 1.** Stone mounds; wooden posts; and solid, capped, or crimped metal posts are wildlife-safe. Consult state law to make sure your wildlife-safe marker complies with the posting requirements in your jurisdiction.



This dead mountain bluebird was found in a PVC mining claim marker in late November 2011 near Virginia City, Nevada. A law in Nevada enables anyone to pull up claim marker stakes that are improperly set.