



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Ave
Montrose, CO 81401

In Reply Refer To:
COS05000, 3400

Howard Strand, Manager
OSMRE - Denver Field Branch
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, Colorado 80225

RE: Proposed Decision of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS) SL-3
Phase II Bond Release at the Elk Creek Mine, PN C-1981-022

Dear Mr. Strand:

In Response to a CDRMS request to provide written concurrence, this is to inform you that my staff has reviewed the CDRMS Findings and Proposed Decision dated May 5, 2021.

We note that CDRMS accepts that Oxbow conducted reclamation of drill pads and access roads from 2015 through 2017 and has sufficiently replaced topsoil and established the success standard for vegetative cover in accordance with the approved reclamation plan thereby meeting all requirements of the Act and the Rules at all sites and further qualifying them for phase II bond release.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands included in the bond release area total 50.44 acres of which 7.18 acres are BLM managed surface. We also acknowledge that the reclaimed area was once used to support underground mining activities that included coal mined from federal mineral estate managed by the BLM. We have determined that all the facilities and the related surface they occupied had served their useful purpose and were no longer necessary. We agree that the subject reclamation acres are completed as CDRMS reported. If the private landowner (Hotchkiss Ranch) and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG) are also satisfied with the reclamation completed on their surface, then the BLM has no objection to the subject bond release. We are aware that Hotchkiss Ranch requests that certain access roads remain on their private surface and have no objection to their request.

If you have any questions, please contact Desty Dyer at (970) 240-5302.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Copping
Acting Field Manager

CC Leigh Simmons, CDRMS
Dan Gray, USFS
Doug Smith, OML