



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Paonia Ranger District

403 North Rio Grande Avenue  
P.O. Box 1030 Paonia CO 81428  
970-527-4131 970-527-4151

**File Code:** 2820  
**Date:** June 22, 2021

Thomas Medlin  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Office of Surface Mining  
Denver Field Division  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Medlin:

The Paonia Ranger District has reviewed the Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance submitted by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety for the West Elk Mine's SL-12 Phase I Bond Release. This bond release contains 22.58 acres of reclaimed roads and well pads on Forest Service lands.

The roads and wells pads contained in this bond release have been inspected by a representative of the Paonia Ranger District and the Forest Service concurs with the decision of DRMS for Phase I Bond Release.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Gray at [daniel.gray@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.gray@usda.gov) or at (970) 527-4131.

Sincerely,

LEVI BROYLES

District Ranger

