



Chad Stewart
Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
2250 South Main Street
Delta, Colorado 81416
email: leticia.neal@usda.gov

Re: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Mountain Coal's West Elk Mine Panels 15–17
(R2022020408007) (HC #81930)

Dear M. Stewart:

We received your letter dated August 24, 2022 initiating consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800) for the subject matter.

We find the survey report titled A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Mountain Coal's West Elk Mine Panels 15–17 in Gunnison County, Colorado satisfactory and we concur with your finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1).

We request being involved in the consultation process with the local government, which as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 is required to be notified of the undertaking, and with other consulting parties. Additional information provided by the local government or consulting parties might cause our office to re-evaluate our eligibility and potential effect findings. Please note that our compliance letter does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties.

Should unidentified archaeological resources be discovered in the course of the undertaking, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4) in consultation with our office pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13. Also, should the consulted-upon scope of the work change please contact our office for continued consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Mark Tobias, Intergovernmental Services Manager, at (303) 866-4674 or mark.tobias@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Dawn DiPrince
State Historic Preservation Officer