



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
Fax: 970-527-4151

File Code: 2820
Date: January 27, 2023

Howard Strand
Manager OSMRE Denver Field Branch
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, Colorado
80225-0065

Dear Mr. Strand

The Paonia Ranger District has reviewed the Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance for the Elk Creek Mine's SL-7, Partial Phase III Bond Release. The bond release contains 21.24 acres of reclamation on private and federal surface, of which 2.91 acres are located on USFS administered lands. The 15-06, 16-06 and 16-07 gob vent borehole well pads on USFS surface were inspected on July 12, 2022 and were found to be in excellent condition. The Paonia Ranger District concurs with the decision for Phase III bond release.

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

Sincerely,

Levi Broyles
District Ranger

