



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  
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**File Code:** 2820  
**Date:** January 22, 2024

Tom Medlin  
AML & Regulatory Program Specialist  
Office of Surface Mining-Denver Field Branch  
One Federal Center, Building 41  
P.O. Box 25065  
Denver, CO  
80225

Dear Mr. Medlin:

The Paonia Ranger District has reviewed the Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance for the West Elk Mine's SL-16, Partial Phase II Bond Release. The bond release package contains 14.36 acres of reclaimed access roads and mine ventilation boreholes on the Paonia Ranger District. Although a representative of the Forest Service was not present on the day of the SL-16 inspection on June 27, 2023, all of the SL-16 locations were inspected during the 2023 field season.

The Paonia Ranger District concurs with the decision for Phase II 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

