



File Code: 2810
Date: October 20, 2022

Katharine Fishman
The Espanola Mercantile Company
1302 N. Riverside Drive
Espanola, NM 87532

Dear Ms. Fishman,

Our Forest Geologist, Joshua Szopinski, inspected the remediation work at the Los Conchas site on Sept 19, 2022 with Matt Lane and Carmen Rose, and found that the work completed by The Espanola Mercantile Company meets our standards. We therefore consider the reclamation activities to be adequate and complete.

As we have stated in the past, the Forest will conduct additional remediation work in the area designated as 'Drainage 2' in the proposed July 2021 Reclamation Plan for Erosional Gully, El Cajete Mine. This erosion occurred following the Cajete Fire and the salvage logging between the mine site and State Road 4 in 2017 and 2018, and is not due to action or lack of action on The Espanola Mercantile Company's part.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Joshua Szopinski at joshua.szopinski@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian Riley

cc: Carmen Rose, New Mexico Mining and Minerals Div.

