

Memorandum

To: File
From: B, Nez and L. Domenici
Date: 6/11/2026
Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting at Kaibeto Chapter House

Wilson Facilitators: Jesse Shuck, Marlene Hoskie, Blain Nez

Location: Kaibeto Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 45

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Many attendees expressed frustration with the number of studies, plans, regulations, and policy initiatives conducted over the years, noting that they have seen few positive outcomes.
 - There were many attendees that said they have explained the same concerns to many new people and the same issues remain unresolved.
 - How will this project, the ARMP, be different from previous projects and will the results have real solutions or be another report?
- Water
 - Daily hauling of water for livestock due to ongoing drought conditions.
 - The strain of buying additional hay/feed
 - Attendees expressed concern about declining precipitation and questioned how communities are expected to adapt to increasingly dry conditions.
 - Water Rights
 - Lake Powell
 - Declining Water Table
 - The need to rebuild dams and keep water on the land were discussed repeatedly.
 - Some attendees discussed the role of traditional prayers and ceremonies in supporting the health of the land, livestock, and water resources.
 - Asking if traditional practices could still play a role in helping communities respond to drought.
- Livestock Producers, Ranchers, and Farmers
 - Expressed that they feel forgotten.
 - Concern that Council Delegates often discuss highways, development projects, and other priorities, but rarely discuss livestock, grazing, farming, and other day-to-day challenges faced by permit holders.
 - Some attendees stated that ranchers are “last on the list” and receive little support despite being responsible for feeding livestock, hauling water, and maintain operations during difficult conditions.
- Grazing Permits
 - Concern over permits, permit transfers, and probate issues were discussed throughout the meeting.

- Questions about why permits were tied up in these studies and reviews and were worried that they might never be returned once the land has been evaluated or reclassified.
- Concern over how permittees are expected to follow regulations while others exceed permit numbers without consequences.
- Questions regarding livestock tallies and continued use of sheep units are primary method of measuring carrying capacity.
- Enforcement
 - Attendees pointed out the lack of enforcement.
 - Examples cited by attendees included livestock on highways, unauthorized livestock numbers, off-road vehicle damage, illegal dumping, and grazing violations.
 - These are all examples of regulations that exist but there are too few rangers and field personal available to manage the land and local communities are left dealing with the consequences.
- Land
 - Many questions were asked about how land decisions are made and who ultimately controls the land.
 - Discussions focused on trust land status, BIA authority, homesite leases, roads, the shrinking grazing areas, and concerns that local communities are not informed about decisions until they have already been made.
 - Several participants stated that decisions are often made in Window Rock without meaningful local involvement and that communities rarely receive information about studies conducted in their own areas.
- Conservation Plans and Land Management
 - There is a desire for practical education, technical assistance, and resources that would help them to understand and complete these requirements rather than just being told they must comply.
 - Multiple attendees stated that they do not know how to prepare conservation plans and that only a small number of people attend available training opportunities.
 - Although a lot of comments reflect concern, several speakers focused on solutions.
 - There were discussions of rebuilding dams, erosion control, rotational grazing, water collection, soil conservation, hay production, invasive species management, and agricultural entrepreneurship.
 - One speaker encouraged permit holders to treat agriculture and ranching as businesses and stated that communities need to develop skills, education, and self-sufficiency, rather than waiting for outside help.
 - Other attendees emphasized that communities must attend meetings, work together, care for the land, and support future planning efforts.

Key Messaging by Wilson staff:

- The ARMP is intended to be a plan developed for and by the Navajo Nation.
- BIA will approve the ARMP, but it will remain the Nation's Plan.
- The proposed project area is based on Navajo Nation mapping and includes lands within the Nation.

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- A draft ARMP will be made available for public review to ensure community input is accurately reflected.
- Presentation will be provided to the Chapter.

Observations:

1. Several attendees requested follow-up meetings, newsletters, community-specific information, access to previous studies and reports, and recommendations for resources that communities can use immediately.
2. There is a strong interest in seeing information returned to the community rather than remaining within agencies or government offices.
3. Water availability, drought, and water rights were consistently identified as major concerns throughout the meeting.
4. Attendees expressed concern with permit delays, lack of enforcement, and limited communication between leadership and local communities.
5. Attendees requested practical solutions, training opportunities, and access to information from previous studies and planning efforts.
6. Traditional teachings, ceremonies, and cultural perspectives were discussed alongside modern land management concerns.

Of-Interest:

- Several attendees referenced 25 CFR 161 and 25 CFR 167 while discussing grazing regulations, permit administration, and enforcement concerns.
- Several attendees emphasized the importance of continued communication, newsletters, and community-specific feedback throughout the ARMP process.