

Memorandum

To: File

From: S. Kubic

Date: 5/22/2026

Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on 5/13/2026

Wilson Facilitators: Peter Steele, Dalton Nez, Marlene Hoskie, Blaine Nez

Location: Mountain Valley Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 15

Sign-In Sheet Attached. Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Severe drought conditions, declining rainfall and snowfall patterns, and long-term environmental degradation are primary concerns affecting the Monument Valley area.
- Major impacts on livestock, vegetation, natural springs, grazing lands, and traditional agricultural practices resulting from prolonged drought and changing environmental conditions.
- Lack of water access, failing windmills, buried or contaminated water sources,
- Limited infrastructure maintenance
- Lack of support for local water development projects
- Frustration with restrictions on water access despite nearby rivers, springs, and water infrastructure projects.
- Uranium contamination, groundwater contamination, power plant impacts, and distrust of local drinking water quality
 - historical conditions where water sources, earthen dams, and springs provided reliable clean water for livestock and agriculture, but many of these resources are now dry, contaminated, or inaccessible.
- Concern that industrial activities including mining and power generation have negatively impacted local air quality, water quality, vegetation, and overall ecological balance.
- Feral horses and unmanaged livestock were identified as major contributors to vegetation loss, grazing pressure, and water contamination.
- Loss of traditional ecological knowledge, medicinal plants, native species, and cultural practices tied to land stewardship, livestock care, and ceremonial activities.
- Concerns about tourism impacts within Monument Valley Tribal Park, including off-road vehicle damage, traffic hazards, lack of fencing, and lack of support for residents living within the park boundaries.
 - Tribal Park tourism revenue does not appear to support local residents' infrastructure needs, including water, electricity, road maintenance, or housing improvements.
 - Barriers to obtaining water access, utilities, and infrastructure improvements.
- Preserving traditional sheep culture, wool production, weaving, land stewardship, and
- Interest in economic development opportunities centered around traditional sheep production, wool processing, weaving, and agricultural stewardship.
- Concern that younger generations are becoming disconnected from traditional livestock practices and land stewardship responsibilities.
 - educational and stewardship programs focused on youth engagement, livestock care, shearing, weaving, wool production, and agricultural traditions.

- Requests for increased communication, public outreach, and continued updates regarding ARMP progress and related planning efforts.
- Interested in using ARMP and associated environmental review processes to support future stewardship demonstration projects, irrigation planning, and agricultural infrastructure development.

Key Messaging by Wilson staff:

- The ARMP is to be the Nation's Plan.
- BIA will approve the ARMP, but it will be the Nation's Plan
- Proposed Project Area is based on Nation's mapping and being part of the Nation.
- A draft ARMP will be made available for "your" review "to see if we got it right."

Observations:

1. Multiple attendees recalled significant environmental changes beginning in the 1980s and worsening after the early 2000s.
2. Attendees emphasized the importance of respecting and restoring traditional teachings related to water stewardship, offerings, ceremonies, rotational grazing, and care for the land.
3. Multiple attendees requested clarification regarding water rights, access to San Juan River water, and future planning associated with regional water settlements and infrastructure projects.
4. Frustration was expressed regarding lack of communication and coordination between Tribal Park management, residents, and broader ARMP planning efforts.
5. Community members requested additional public announcements and outreach regarding future ARMP meetings and planning activities.
6. Participants expressed interest in using ARMP and associated environmental review processes to support future stewardship demonstration projects, irrigation planning, and agricultural infrastructure development; the possibility of developing agriculture and irrigation demonstration projects tied to future ARMP and environmental planning efforts.

Of-Interest:

- Marlena Donald, Monument Valley resident, emphasized the importance of preserving sheep culture, grazing traditions, and livestock stewardship for future generations.
- Community members requested additional information regarding protected plant species, reseeding efforts, and opportunities to participate in vegetation restoration and stewardship projects.