

Memorandum

To: File
From: S. Kubic
Date: 5/21/2026
Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on Lukachukai Chapter

Wilson Facilitators: Peter, Marlene, Blaine

Location: Lukachukai Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 6

Sign-In Sheet Attached. Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Severe concerns regarding drought conditions, declining water availability, and loss of local water infrastructure including irrigation dams, hand pump wells, and windmills.
- Requests for water catchment and retention infrastructure to better utilize seasonal flood waters for livestock, wildlife, and agricultural use.
- Concerns regarding possible contamination of local spring water sources due to nearby fracking activity and broader environmental degradation.
- Community interest in exploring cloud seeding and traditional ceremonial practices as possible methods to address prolonged drought conditions.
- Concerns regarding increasing sagebrush dominance and declining grassland productivity, with discussion of areas where wildfire appeared to improve grass recovery.
- Repeated concerns regarding probate delays affecting grazing permits, farming permits, and homesite development, resulting in stalled agricultural and community development efforts.
- Concerns regarding lack of livestock enforcement, including free-ranging cattle operating under state brand permits without proper fencing or management.
- Illegal dumping and unmanaged trash accumulation were identified as major community concerns.
- Local residents noted that many hand pump wells and windmills have deteriorated significantly and that community members often perform repairs independently due to lack of agency support.
- Multiple attendees expressed that conservation plans are overly complex for permit holders and that there are insufficient resources or training opportunities available to assist communities with developing conservation plans.
 - Requests for additional conservation planning assistance and training opportunities similar to programs reportedly available within Wheatfields Chapter.
- Concerns regarding lack of local representation and lack of trust in Chapter leadership and administration.
- Community requests for improved transparency, regular ARMP updates, public access to meeting summaries, and continued communication with local residents.
- Discussion regarding lack of participation and engagement from local community members in Chapter governance and land management issues.

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".
- Presentation will be sent to Chapter.

Observations:

1. Multiple attendees expressed concern regarding declining precipitation, deteriorating vegetation conditions, and long-term drought impacts across the Lukachukai area.
2. Community members discussed historical flood events, including flooding within Canyon de Chelly, and expressed interest in developing floodwater retention and watershed infrastructure projects.
3. Participants expressed concern regarding unauthorized homesite development and squatting without proper homesite lease approvals or land clearances.
4. Several attendees questioned wildlife population estimates and requested increased hunting permits based on local observations of deer populations.
5. Probate-related delays were repeatedly identified as major barriers to grazing management, homesite development, irrigation projects, and agricultural activities.
6. Community members emphasized the lack of enforcement regarding unpermitted livestock and free-ranging cattle.
7. Traditional prayer, ceremonial practices, and cultural approaches to restoring environmental balance and rainfall were identified as important community values that attendees wished to see respected within the ARMP process.
8. Community members requested consideration of how Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), ceremonial practices, and cultural stewardship concepts may be incorporated into long-term land management planning efforts.

Of-Interest:

- Wheatfields Chapter was identified as having conservation planning training resources and computer-aided assistance programs that attendees viewed positively.
- Community members expressed interest in future assessment and rehabilitation of hand pump wells, windmills, and local water infrastructure systems.
- Requests were made for additional research into drought mitigation strategies, including cloud seeding and watershed restoration efforts.