

Memorandum

To: File

From: S. Kubic

Date: 4/30/2026

Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on 4/30/2026

Wilson Facilitators: Liliana Domenici, Jared Seff, Marlene Hoskie

Location: Newcomb Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 9

Sign-In Sheet Attached. Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Grazing officials won't allow permittee to move livestock up on the mountain and graze areas which have good grazing, conflict with Mexican spring who own land.
 - would like to be able to graze that land.
- Changes:
 - Moving livestock to mountain in limited
 - Due to cheaper boundaries
 - Need to review the chapter
 - Lifestyle changes led to less focus on the livestock
 - Boundaries allowing access to the mountain area to allow rotation
- No longer own sheep, have cattle and horses, must haul hay in winter.
- Cattle wander into other people's grazing permitted area.
- People aren't friendly, unwilling to help, younger generation aren't interested in raising livestock
- Grazing permits are on hold at BIA office, work with BIA on tally counts
 - Frustration with the length and pace of the BIA issuing permits
 - Grazing officers are irresponsible and do not adequately inform or assist permittees with grazing or livestock
 - Grazing officials take information but do nothing to address issues
 - Difference in what people are told in Shiprock versus Fort Defiance
- Do nothing to address feral horses, others have horses which are not penned and graze wherever they like
- East slope of the Narbona Pass up to the "golf ball" is closed off and belongs to Mexican Springs, they have not shown us proof for this denial.
 - Solar farm near Mexican springs
- Vandalism, people destroying hay
- Conflict between wild deer and livestock, grazing by livestock is reducing available forage for wildlife.
 - Wild horses eat dog food and bedding for dogs
 - Vet(?) programs
 - Sterilization of the horses
- Woman trying to move grazing permit to grandson and went through significant process to do so.
 - Permits are backed up in Window Rock by BIA and people do not have permits available to prove they are allowed to graze.

- Horses and cattle destroy infrastructure to help irrigate and manage livestock
 - Others do not properly manage livestock, allowing them to graze on other people's permitted areas.
- Isabel Yazzie - from Fort Defiance, wants grazing officials to be an employee who is hired based on merit instead of being elected.
 - Community voted against feral horse roundup
 - Community is not educated enough to make informed decisions
 - Need guidance and expertise to make the best decisions and BIA is not providing that expertise
 - Closing cases in probate:
 - Probate, quiet titles take time
 - Terrain is not the same and a single plan is not sufficient to address entire NN
 - Irresponsible livestock owners who have unmarked livestock
 - People do not know if they will get permits, department of the interior told them that grazing permitting has been halted.
 - Recommends feral horse management practices such as feral horse contraception, round up and donation to veterans' association.
 - Suggests controlled burning to help restore landscape.
- Barbara Wooleto, Diné legal services - closed permit cases after notice from BIA saying they would not reissue grazing permits before addressing environmental impacts.
- Public is not provided with access to utilities that they are developing
- People who don't have permits who have livestock, unaccounted for illegal grazing. No enforcement for these individuals.
- Rose Chavez - permits issued in 1937 people not informed of rules and regulations, currently many people are in violation.
 - Suggests mandatory training for individuals to receive the permit so they know what activities comply and which do not. Permits are transferred and new owners are not informed about proper compliance. Think everyone should have to take mandatory training to receive permit.
- People have too many livestock and do not care about drought or lack of forage
- Suggests polling students to see how much of the youth are interested in range work, having livestock. Determine future outlook for area.
- Use sheep in Navajo owned manufacturing, making sheep products
- Should make an educational training video to inform people about
 - Permit compliance
 - Livestock care (ranch hand program)
 - Wool textile business support
 - Livestock / veterinary support
 - Education for kids
 - Butchering
 - Sheep shearing
- Unresponsible animal owners also cause problems, and lack of care of their animal/neglect has animals destroying property.
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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:

- Multiple people expressed frustration with grazing permits and the lack of enforcement for herd and land management.
- There are recommendations to address feral horse and land management.
- There was a Miscommunication on the PIS of the ARMP (on the radio).

Of-Interest:

- Support for mandatory training and education programs for livestock and permit holders and young people.