

Memorandum

To: File

From: T. Martin

Date: 4/21/2026

Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on 4/21/2026

Wilson Facilitators: Kariann Sokulsky, Tiffany Martin, Blaine Nez, Marlene Hoskie

Location: Ganado Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 70+

Sign-In Sheet Attached. Yes

Key Themes from Attendees (Simplified Summary)

Water & Infrastructure

- Water access is one of the biggest concerns. Attendees said, “*We really need water,*” and believe only a small portion of available water is being used.
- Irrigation canals are in poor condition, leaving farmland unused.
- There is strong interest in funding to repair canals, windmills, and irrigation systems.
- Some attendees haul water for livestock and personal use due to lack of infrastructure.
- Concerns regarding water rights, aquifer studies, and upstream water management.
- Requests for irrigation maps and better planning tools.

Grazing, Permits & Regulation

- The grazing permit process is too complicated, slow, and difficult to navigate.
- Some people follow permit rules, while others do not, creating frustration and unfair conditions.
- There is little enforcement of existing rules.
- Permit transfers and approvals are often delayed or denied without clear answers.
- Concerns that livestock numbers may be reduced without understanding local needs.
- Attendees expressed frustration with outside decision-makers who do not live the lifestyle.
- Many want simpler processes and clearer guidance on what permits to use during the current BIA permit freeze.

Livestock & Animal Management

- Feral horses and stray dogs are a major issue, causing damage and killing livestock.
- Lack of veterinary services in the area.
- Livestock theft is a concern, with little enforcement or support.
- Some attendees cannot leave animals out due to fear of theft or attacks.
- Prairie dogs and other animals are impacting forage and land health.
- Calls for better livestock education (feeding, care, management).

Land Use, Environment & Stewardship

- Many attendees value traditional land use and stewardship over profit.
- Interest in improving land health through:
 - Rotational grazing
 - Reseeding
 - Pollinator and native species support
 - Water capture techniques (e.g., swales)
- Concerns that conservation plans are too general and not enforced.
- Attendees want more local, practical solutions rather than large, broad plans.
- Environmental damage from flooding, off-road vehicles, and erosion was discussed.
- Some attendees noted a lack of understanding about environmental impacts in the community.

Community Capacity & Support

- Aging population makes it harder to maintain farms and herds.
- Very limited involvement from younger generations.
- Lack of basic resources (tools, seeds, technical help).
- Many trainings exist, but people feel they do not meet basic needs.
- Strong desire for hands-on support and practical assistance.
- Communication barriers exist—technical language is hard for many elders to follow.

Governance, Trust & Accountability

- Strong frustration with lack of follow-through from officials.
- Attendees feel their concerns are heard but not acted on.
- Grazing officials and leadership were not present, which caused frustration.
- Perception that meetings benefit agencies more than local people.
- Desire for:
 - More accountability
 - Better enforcement
 - Direct communication with decision-makers
- Some attendees expressed interest in smaller, more local decision-making.

Cultural Values & Community Priorities

- Strong pride in traditional practices and livestock raising.
 - Concern that traditions are being lost.
 - Desire for more traditional foods, medicine, and lifestyles.
 - Emphasis that local people know what is best for their land.
 - Community members want to be directly involved in decisions affecting them.
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Education & Communication Needs

- Materials should be simplified and written in plain language.
 - Need for translated information (e.g., Navajo language support).
 - Technical and scientific explanations are often not useful to attendees.
 - Requests for:
 - Simple ARMP pamphlets
 - Clear explanations of environmental impacts
 - Step-by-step guidance on permits and processes
 - Ongoing challenge: bridging the communication gap between agencies and community members.
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Key Messaging by Wilson Staff

- The ARMP will be the Nation's plan.
 - The BIA will approve the ARMP, but it is developed by the Nation.
 - The project area is based on Navajo Nation mapping.
 - A draft ARMP will be shared for public review to ensure accuracy.
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Observations

1. Several attendees arrived late or left early, including former officials.
 2. Frustration increased due to absence of grazing and land board officials.
 3. Many comments reflected broader dissatisfaction with agency processes, not just the ARMP.
 4. Communication barriers (technical language, English proficiency) significantly impacted engagement.
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Of Interest

- **Strong recommendation to develop:**
 - Simplified ARMP outreach materials
 - Translated scripts (for facilitators such as Marlene)
 - Visual or easy-to-understand educational tools
- **Repeated requests for:**
 - Windmill repair programs
 - Irrigation mapping and planning
 - Better coordination between agencies and chapters