

Memorandum

To: File

From: L.Domenici

Date: 4/27/2026

Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on 4/27/2026

Wilson Facilitators: Liliana Domenici, Jared Seff, Marlene Hoskie

Location: Beclabito Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 6

Sign-In Sheet Attached. Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Land Disputes
 - o Local and between families
 - o Most families have small farms with sheep, horses, and cattle.
- Land changes throughout time
 - o There is a difference between the land 20 years ago when it was forged and 30 years
 - o It's our responsibility to take care of the land.
- Younger Generation is leaving the Reservation
 - o They leave for jobs and education
 - o There needs to be ways to draw them back
 - o Identification of schools that teach agriculture
 - o Some of the work is too hard for them, or they are not willing to do it.
- Future
 - o Consider gardening, on a smaller scale
 - o How families can do this on their own, or having a community garden
- Think of Mother Earth as a living Earth
 - o She provides/ sustains us
- Water Resources
 - o Windmills- they are limited and need repair or to be replaced
 - o Utility co-ops help people
 - o Cost of water
 - o Lack of water for livestock and easy access to it
 - o Utility water is not good for farming, so families have to drive far to access the windmills and then haul it back in water trucks
 - o Contamination- from uranium and arsenic (mining), Gold milling spill into the San Juan River
 - o Scarcity; frequent shortages in mid-summer
 - o What is the status of the NN Water Rights Case- San Juan River
 - o Possibility of piping water to the north where dams can be built for electricity and seeking funding
 - o Irrigation from areas along the river
- Nazlini
 - o Not enough land for sheep to graze
 - o Vegetation differs from area to area
- Constraint
 - o Herds of feral horses that eat all of the vegetation

- Requires livestock owners to go buy hay/ grains to sustain animals, they cannot rely on the land
 - Suggested moving and camping with herd in available pastures (Nomadic herding)
- Environment Issues
 - Lack of response from NN grazing officials
- Lambing season
 - They have a need to forage and to get them out
- Terrain is rough
- Helium Extraction Project
 - contentious development,
 - reduces available land for grazing,
 - possibly pollutes environment and water
- Home Allotments
 - Being built on ideal grazing areas
 - Possibility to restrict where they can be built?
- Land Status
 - These are trust lands, what is the impact?
 - Only have permits to graze
 - HSL is only a lease
 - No ownership leads to disputes
 - Loss of farmland to urban development
- BIA was in charge, NN took over and there are not enough funds and no repairs or maintenance.
- Gravel Resources
 - They have lots of gravel resources. but are not making use of them. They don't want to give up land.
 - Interest in using own gravel and stone sourced within the Navajo nation for roads and construction,
 - Produce own timber etc. instead of outsourcing materials.
 - Sell resources instead of buying them.
- Red Valley
 - Invasive Species
 - Russian Olive (trees), power plant/ enterprises use water
 - Saltcellar would be better noxious weed control
 - Farming – 1.4 acres – spring water
 - Feral Horses – vegetation is dying out and they eat nonstop
 - Need windmill repair – never done
- What Resources are available?
 - Water trucks (non-native)?
 - Manage the water and land
 - Need methods on how to manage land
- Navajo Dam
- Think outside of the box to deal with drought, overgrazing, etc.
- Turnabouts, they are unclear
- Portable water
- Gallup water project: water is going by them
- Proposed construction of hydro power dam on Animas
- Gallup wants a data center
- Possibly extend to Acoma
- Gas Extraction; there is no remediation of the land
 - Reseal aquifer; land reseeding goes to NN

- NAPI needs to extend
 - o More jobs will become available
- PLM, NRCS, BIA
 - o Identify the process/ systems within the NN to ensure these go to committees
- Horse Rescue – Bloomfield
- RMU- resources needed
- Vegetation/replenishing the land, but people who vote for it don't live out in the area. They live in housing subdivisions.
- Water Pump repair and put more in
- Water seeps out of the ground.
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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:

1. Water was a huge priority and was discussed a lot throughout the meeting.
2. People expressed frustrations with BIA, NN, lack of funding and resources.

Of-Interest:

- Integration of traditional knowledge into land management practices