

Memorandum

Summary of Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP) Public Input Meeting – Chilchinbeto Chapter House

To: File

From: D. Kidder and L. Domenici

Date: 6/19/2026

Wilson Facilitators

Tiffany Martin, Dalton Kidder, Marlene Hoskie

Location: Chilchinbeto Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 13

Key Themes from Attendees

RMUs

- Participants stated that RMUs are intended to promote healthy livestock and responsible land stewardship; however, implementation is challenging when multiple permittees have different levels of understanding.
- Participants noted that changing long-standing grazing practices can be difficult.
- Participants identified an area with suitable soils for hay production but expressed uncertainty about whether hay production is allowed within an RMU.
- Participants asked whether there will be a direct working relationship with RMUs and noted they have been told an RMU requires sufficient vegetation to support approximately 21 sheep units.
- Participants asked how communities can encourage compliance without creating conflict.
- Participants stated that managing livestock and feral animals is difficult despite written regulations.
- Participants noted that rotational grazing is difficult because of dry conditions and recalled that land boundaries and communication were better understood in the past.
- Participants expressed concern that homesite leases are difficult to obtain within RMUs and that returning young adults reduce available livestock allocations.
- Participants stated that unmanaged livestock damage corrals, fencing, water supplies, and utility infrastructure.
- Participants asked how many homesite leases are allowed within an RMU and referenced a 90% livestock/10% residential allocation.
- Participants asked whether additional grazing land outside the reservation could be made available for rotational grazing.
- Participants questioned responsibility for maintaining cattle guards and deteriorating fences.

Illegal Trash Dumping

- Participants expressed concern about illegal dumping, including buried tires and waste entering washes.
- Participants recommended additional landfill and recycling locations.

Enforcement

- Participants stated that enforcement of grazing regulations by BIA and grazing officials is inconsistent.
- Participants expressed confusion regarding who is currently responsible for grazing enforcement and noted limited staffing.

Permitting

- Participants stated that permitting is time-consuming and involves significant administrative requirements.
- Participants noted that promised public meetings do not always occur and that numerous obstacles remain.
- Participants discussed conflicting information regarding proposed livestock reductions and uncertainty about whether requirements originate from the Navajo Nation or BIA.
- Participants stated that younger generations face challenges obtaining grazing permits and suggested permit consolidation may improve equity.

Communication

- Participants emphasized the need for clearer, more consistent communication and guidance from agencies.
- Participants stated that conflicting information and vacant positions make it difficult to obtain accurate information.

Jobs

- Participants stated that limited employment opportunities contribute to residents leaving the reservation and recommended improving access to resources and information.

Access to Resources

- Participants discussed limited access to equipment, seeds, labor, and grant information.
- Participants expressed interest in expanding markets for Navajo wool and other agricultural products.
- Participants suggested tourism and business development could provide additional economic opportunities.

Water

- Participants asked whether the ARMP could support erosion management and improved watershed restoration.
- Participants recommended rehabilitating earthen dams and removing accumulated sediment and salt cedar.
- Participants identified climate change, expanding sand dunes, and declining watershed conditions as major concerns.

Farming

- Participants reflected on traditional farming practices and emphasized the importance of selecting appropriate sites and understanding native vegetation.

Wildlife/Feral Animals

- Participants expressed concern about increasing numbers of feral horses and dogs, carcass disposal, and limited veterinary services.
- Participants emphasized protecting wildlife while considering wildlife movement during fencing and RMU planning.

Infrastructure

- Participants stated that windmill maintenance is delayed and responsibilities are unclear.
- Participants expressed concern about land being converted to roads, homes, and solar facilities and the potential impacts on vegetation and erosion.

ARMP Project Questions

- Participants asked about BIA approval, project timelines, plant studies, soil testing, vegetation restoration, and whether project updates could be provided by email.
- Participants requested additional technical assistance related to soils, vegetation, and agricultural management.

Key Messaging by Wilson Staff

- The ARMP will be the Navajo Nation's plan.
- BIA will approve the ARMP, but it will remain the Navajo Nation's plan.
- The proposed project area is based on the Navajo Nation's mapping and jurisdiction.
- A draft ARMP will be available for public review to verify community input.
- The presentation will be provided to the Chapter.

Observations

- Attendance was limited. Participants indicated that competing commitments and limited outreach may have reduced participation.

Of Interest

- Continue communication with the Chapter and community members throughout the project.
- Improve meeting outreach and advertising.
- Identify educational resources and technical assistance to support agricultural management.