

Memorandum

To: File
From: S. Kubic
Date: 06/08/2026
Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on Red Valley Chapter

Wilson Facilitators: Peter Steele, Marlene Hoskie, Blaine Nez

Location: Red Valley Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 28

Sign-In Sheet Attached: Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Water scarcity, drought conditions, declining snowpack, and deteriorating water infrastructure were identified as the most significant concerns affecting the Red Valley area.
- Concerns were raised regarding neglected windmills, failing wells, inadequate water retention infrastructure, and inability to capture seasonal runoff and watershed resources.
 - lack of maintenance funding, staffing, and operational capacity for windmills, wells, roads, and agricultural infrastructure.
- Frustration was expressed regarding unmanaged feral horses, feral cattle, and free-ranging livestock contributing to overgrazing, vegetation loss, and competition for limited forage and water resources.
 - Including watershed degradation, forage depletion, and conflicts regarding livestock management.
- Community members expressed concerns regarding lack of accountability, transparency, and follow-through from Navajo Nation departments, agencies, and previous planning efforts.
- Probate delays involving grazing permits, farming permits, and homesite permits were identified as major barriers to agricultural operations, land management, and intergenerational transfer of permits.
 - Attendees expressed strong concern regarding uncertainty over the future of grazing permits, homesites, herd reductions, permit restrictions, and possible regulatory changes associated with the ARMP.
 - Concerns were raised regarding right-of-way restrictions, homesite limitations, permit overlap disputes, and restrictions on traditional seasonal movement patterns associated with livestock grazing.
 - Frustration was expressed regarding probate procedures, court involvement, survey requirements, and uncertainty surrounding future permit transfers and permit inheritance processes and unused permits for extended periods due to probate complications and administrative delays.
- Strong emphasis was placed on preserving traditional livestock practices, cultural teachings, Navajo language, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and intergenerational transfer of agricultural knowledge.

- Participants emphasized that traditional seasonal livestock movement patterns historically functioned successfully without heavy regulation and that environmental conditions themselves often dictated livestock management decisions.
- Requests were made for increased youth involvement, educational outreach, and cultural programs tied to ranching, farming, land stewardship, and traditional lifeways.
 - Younger generations are becoming disconnected from traditional ranching and farming lifeways
- Community members emphasized the need for “boots on the ground” involvement and requested that decision-makers spend more time directly observing local environmental and agricultural conditions.
- Attendees expressed concerns that outside agencies and consultants often conduct studies without adequately communicating findings or implementing meaningful action afterward.
 - Participants requested increased communication, transparency, regular updates, and continued public involvement throughout the ARMP planning process.
 - Attendees requested that local communities maintain meaningful authority and oversight throughout the ARMP process rather than decisions being made solely by outside agencies or distant government entities.
- Economic development opportunities related to livestock, wool, sheep production, goat products, and agricultural industries were identified as important community priorities.
- Community members expressed concern regarding invasive species, watershed degradation, erosion, predator pressures, road maintenance, and lack of infrastructure support for agricultural operations.

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. Community members repeatedly emphasized that livestock and land stewardship are central components of Navajo identity, culture, family structure, and traditional livelihood systems.
2. Attendees expressed concerns that regulatory systems and environmental planning documents often fail to recognize the cultural and spiritual relationships Navajo people maintain with livestock and land.
3. Participants expressed frustration that Navajo Nation departments claim ownership of unbranded feral animals but do not adequately manage or remove them from grazing areas.
4. Community members stressed the importance of self-sufficiency, local resilience, and reducing dependency on outside government assistance through restoration of traditional agricultural practices and infrastructure.

5. Concerns were raised regarding inadequate outreach and communication from Navajo Nation departments, with several attendees stating they rarely observe agency personnel conducting fieldwork or engaging directly with communities.
6. Multiple attendees requested that future ARMP implementation remain adaptable and amendable to changing environmental conditions and evolving community needs.
7. Attendees expressed concern that future regulations could result in additional herd reductions, permit cancellations, fencing requirements, or restrictions on traditional grazing practices.
8. Participants discussed the need for additional economic development surrounding wool production, sheep products, goat products, and livestock-based industries to support ranching livelihoods.
9. Community members discussed the need for improved watershed capture, dam construction, erosion control, and expanded water infrastructure projects to improve long-term drought resilience.
10. Multiple attendees requested additional advertisement and outreach regarding ARMP public meetings and planning activities.

Of-Interest:

- Discussion occurred regarding potential partnerships with outside agencies, contractors, and training organizations (such as Army Corp Engineers) to assist with dam construction, watershed infrastructure, and agricultural development projects.
- Community members expressed interest in developing renewable energy infrastructure, manufacturing opportunities, and local agricultural industries tied to livestock production.
- Attendees discussed the possibility of creating a farmers and ranchers union or similar organizational structure to strengthen agricultural advocacy and coordination efforts.
- Clarification was provided that probate oversight responsibilities are transitioning away from BIA and toward Navajo Nation administration.
- Community members requested additional clarification regarding survey requirements, environmental review processes, EIS responsibilities, permit overlaps, and future implementation procedures.