

Memorandum

To: File

From: L.Domenici

Date: 4/29/2026

Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on 4/29/2026

Wilson Facilitators: Liliana Domenici, Jared Seff, Marlene Hoskie

Location: Two Grey Hills Chapter House

Number of Attendees: 1

Sign-In Sheet Attached. Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- The last year Shiprock issued grazing permits was 2014; the acting director reused the grazing permit letter written by his predecessor.
- Lots of urbanization along Route 491 shrinks the available land for grazing.
 - o The permits are set to limit the number of sheep units you can use and do not change if grazable land is reduced.
 - o Shiprock agency pays its residents based on the size of its permits, the more sheep units the greater the payment, making people reticent to give up their permits, or having their sheep units reduced.
- Shiprock has mining and grazing map units with boundaries; we should get this information from Patrick Begay. He also has the original 1937 sheep unit Map with district grazing map, each original grazing area was determined based on the watershed
- Where oil and mining are taking place in the Shiprock agency, permit holders are compensated by the companies for oil wells and mining taking place within their permitted grazing area.
- Problem is that permits do not get retired or “Graduated”, there are
 - o too many permits and not enough grazable land.
 - o When homes, schools and other infrastructure is made on formerly grazable land, the permits on that land are not “graduated” to alternate use.
 - o The grazing continues in the same intensity on less land, causes overgrazing.
 - o Lambert asked for a 50% reduction of grazing permits when he worked for the Shiprock agency and was “yelled at”
- Rangeland Management Unit System (RMU) are a difficult process and are inconsistently applied, intended for communal grazing rotation, but some people will break up the available land for communal grazing and overgrazing a specific plot and not rotate. Effectively defeating the purpose of the RMU.
- Lambert worked for Hickory, described how hickory would do succession of grazing permits and how it was better than what they did in the Shiprock agency.
 - o Permittee names their successor when they receive their permit, when permittee dies, or is committed to nursing home, then the permit automatically is transferred to successor.
 - o Shiprock requires permittee to go to probate court for successor to be named following loss of original permittee which is a much more difficult process.
- Captain Tom dam and other dams have had their storage reduced for safety reasons, available water for irrigation is reduced but farming is still at pre-reduction levels which leads to water shortages.

- People will avoid punishment for non-compliance, exceeding their permitted sheep units by having their neighbors do their sheep counts.
 - o Suggests we should get Hickory IRMP and use it as reference
 - o 350 sheep units is maximum allowed, 1 cattle is worth 4 sheep units
- When grazing permits were originally issued the intent was to graze 100% of the available land, now to maintain available forage they should be grazing only 35%.
 - o Harvest coefficient is poundage of forage x .35
- Lambert suggests that an independent EIS is needed for each region instead of a single EIS which blankets the entirety of the NN as each region is ecologically different and a blanket statement will not adequately address each region.
- NTUA should handle dumping, should be part of utility payments to reduce illegal dumping
- Eastern agency has tri-party agreement with BIA

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. There is strong support for improving how grazing permits are issued.
2. There should be changes to how land is grazed and suggestions to use Hickory's approach to grazing, land and herd management.

Of-Interest:

- Suggests using the Hickory IRMP as a reference for the ARMP.