

Memorandum

To: File
From: S. Kubic
Date: 5/26/2026
Re: Summary of ARMP Public Input Meeting on Shiprock Chapter

Wilson Facilitators: Tiffany Martin, Dalton Kidder, Marlene Hoskie, Liam Strader-Monaghan, Blaine Nez

Location: Shiprock Central Consolidated School District

Number of Attendees: 9

Sign-In Sheet Attached: Yes

Key Themes from Attendees:

- Too many feral horses and cattle; need to be controlled before limiting and restricting grazing permit holders.
 - The feral animals impact grazing, forage and water sources. They destroy our properties to get our water, feed and salt supplies.
 - Pay people to round up wild horses.
- Younger generations are not focused on livestock care.
 - Politicians and the Tribe encourage higher education learning and returning to support elders and livestock caring. Regulations, red tape make things political and there's a lot of nepotism.
- We graze our sheep and migrate with them to grazing range in winter and summer, but there's no feed available because of feral horses.
 - Try to grow alfalfa, but the horses get at it and congregate at all available water sources.
 - This causes malnutrition and other diseases that we must treat. It costs a lot and horses are aggressive.
- BIA and officials make laws/decisions but don't answer our questions or concerns.
- Farming problems - we have irrigation from the hogback system, but because there was no snow in the mountains and a very warm spring, the irrigation department has told us they will be rationing our water availability.
- Problems with invasive plants and trees and prairie dogs in the fields.
 - Must have certifications to chemically treat fields, but there's none here who is certified.
- Need farmers and ranchers in public offices; they have experience and understand our struggles.
- Our "Navajo Nation" product drops our negotiation pricing because of a bad reputation perception of quality.
 - We need fair pricing, not "Navajo Nation" = Low Quality.
 - Maybe we could have a ranching or farming union.
- There's wild land road access maintenance; people are making new roads causing more land degradation.

- How can we plant when prairie dogs will just come and eat our seeds and then when the corn grows the deer come and eat our stalks? We put in all the effort, and it just gets eaten overnight.
- Must haul water and because of drought conditions the wildlife comes and destroys our fences and areas to access the water we haul in.
 - Maybe look into building a system of wildlife water guzzlers.
- Land transfers and probates need to be easier and streamlined.
- We need farming equipment and machines, at least 4 tractors in each chapter and qualified operators. Now we have to go to the Chapter and wait our turn to get machines.
 - When the machine shows up the operator says, “your field needs to be moistened to grade” and we don’t have access to water so the machine leaves and nothing gets done.
 - Need to be able to access tractors without BIA red tape or chapter houses involvement.
 - We should write a proposal to ask the tribe to fund tractors and farming attachments, like biddy baby farms that offer machine services for farms.
 - Tolani lake enterprises offer assistance and training for farming.
- Share resources and training with the Chapters, like
 - Soil testing and evaluations or training to help us treat and maintain our soil for crop growth and development
 - Programs to help us work together, to maintain our farming lands
- Revoking farming fields should not be part of the (ARMP) plan.
- They want us to pay for water but if we’re going to pay for water we want good quality water.
- Believe the rivers are now bringing toxins and bad things from upstream from the mines and factories and that’s why our soil is degrading.
 - We need help revitalizing our soils.
 - Not right when the government says you’ve missed the window to get support after the Animas goldmine spill.
- Can the tally numbers be flexible from year to year in accordance with what the environment can sustain? For example, if a permit holder decides not to carry livestock in a drought year, they should not forfeit or have their permits revoked.
- Brought up the lack of a PI Meeting at Sonastee Chapter again, it’s not right that there was not a meeting there.

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 are afraid their input will be ignored by Navajo Nation.

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2. The meeting was not publicized by Chapter officials, and it was hard to get information about it.
3. Need more clarification on what the input sessions are for and what the ARMP could change to permits and probates.
4. People believe the permit process is not in favor Navajo.

Of-Interest:

- Discussion occurred regarding creation of farming and ranching unions or cooperative organizations to improve pricing leverage, advocacy, and resource sharing.
- Local agricultural assistance programs such as Biddy Baby Farms and Tolani Lake Enterprises were identified as existing resources providing machinery assistance, training, and support.
- Community members expressed interest in stronger coordination between Chapters and local agricultural organizations to improve access to resources and support services.
- Participants requested clarification regarding tally flexibility, environmental adaptation measures, and whether future ARMP implementation could incorporate drought-responsive livestock management approaches.