

# Chuck Kuchta

## Summary

I'm a seasoned ranch manager, New Mexico born and raised, and have developed a passion for maintaining, and improving where necessary, the natural integrity and beauty of the land and its properties. To this end, my focus has been in holistic ranch management, necessary to resuscitate overgrazed land to support good animal husbandry. As a result, I've overseen the renewed raising of cattle, bison, horses, yak and chickens and an increase in forage by applying effective grazing techniques to improve soil mineral and water cycles. Through this experience, I've learned how important it is to manage the daily operations of the ranch, from equipment maintenance to financial planning and involvement in the local community. I pride myself on being a friendly, composed, and easygoing team player, calm under pressure, with a self-starting, hands-on work ethic and a passion for quality. I believe in a firm-but-fair management style that readily recognizes the value and strengths in others and sets goals accordingly. I understand how important it is to work with the local community and establish good, working, professional relationships. Experienced speaker to ranching groups and trainer of ranch hands, and wranglers. Native English speaker, capable in simple conversational Spanish.

## Expertise

**New Mexico Water Rights** have an understanding of New Mexico water rights for wells, subsurface and surface. Worked with over 800 acre feet of subsurface water rights and 87 acre feet of ditch water rights. Cleaned out and reconstructed 15 wells to operating condition. Familiar with drilling and changing well pumps and windmill operation. This includes servicing, establishing and testing well systems and installing 7 center pivot sprinklers to irrigate 720 acres of farmland.

**Forestry Experience** coordinated with forest consultants and the US Forest Service for timber inventory, road building, forest clean up and responsible timber harvest. Developed and implemented a 10-year plan to improve forest health, aesthetics, wildlife habitats and fire suppression.

**Holistic land management** including land planning, range monitoring, financial planning and grazing planning.

**Low-stress livestock handling** working with livestock to learn their movements in order to keep them calm and stress free for better control and quality product.

**Machine maintenance** including farm equipment, ATV's, military vehicles, trucks, heavy equipment of all makes and models.

**Computer skills:** Mac OS, Word, Excel, PowerPoint

Chuck Kuchta

## Business Experience

[REDACTED]

After the sale of [REDACTED] and I rejoined the Dharma Group in 2012 in South Florida, to assist in various projects for our previous employer. Because of our ongoing relationship of 13 years with Mr. Worrell, we looked forward to the new opportunity in South Florida. Dharma Group/Worrell Water Technologies consists of over 10 various companies in Florida and Virginia, with a focus on water reclamation and purification and preservation and restoration of the historic Sundry House Restaurant and Inn.

[REDACTED] Oversee and maintain commercial and personal properties. Coordinate all subcontractors and vendors for all properties. Contact person for historic restoration projects.

### *Snowmaker and Snowcat Operator*

Maintained ski runs at 11,819 feet above sea level under extreme weather conditions; operated and maintained snowcats, snow guns, hoses, pumps and other snowmaking equipment within all safety regulations of the [REDACTED] Ski Valley.

### *Heavy Equipment Operator and Laborer*

Operated, maintained, cleaned and lubricated compressors, generators and other heavy equipment. Build and positioned concrete forms used in the construction of a 7,000 square feet high mountain residence.

### *Ranch Manager*

In collaboration with Top of the World Farms, managed and maintained ranch operations of 6,600 acres for a private, high profile owner and his family, celebrity guests, political officials and business associates. Guided guests on elk and deer hunts, fishing, horse back riding and high altitude excursions year around. Create a safe and secure environment for guests. Supervised wranglers, ranch hands and house staff. Cared and maintained the use and care of water resources, farmland, ranch buildings, high altitude cabin, tee-pees, houses, equipment and vehicles. Improved and created horse and training facilities with 32 horses in a given period. Developed holistic strategies that align with owner's visions and goals of the ranch. Monitored all the acequias, land, plants and soil for best use and production, including livestock beef for bison and Yak. Maintained a 4,800 square feet exotic plant and garden facility for ranch sustainability. Implemented induced river meandering and strategized for erosion control in problem areas.

[REDACTED]

*Ranch Manager*

Oversaw all operations of 3,300 acres sustainable farm prior to sale. Assisted in locating buyer and sale price of \$6 million. Planned and implemented redevelopment of property from its dilapidated state starting in 2001. Brought it back from rangeland into a fully functioning, sustainable farm by designing and constructing livestock facilities as well as establishing and testing of wells. Grew organic certified grasses and alfalfa for the Southwest including New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. Managed staff and subcontractors in addition to all the equipment operations and maintenance.

**Training and Certification**

Certified Land Practitioner, The Ranch and Ranch Manager Training Program of Holistic Management International (formerly The Savory Center); period of training: August, 2004 through January, 2006.

Wilderness First Responder Training (Medical), 1998-2006

Low Stress livestock handling (Stockmanship courses)

Biological range management courses with Kirk Gadzia yearly 2003-2010

Horse training with Peter Campbell, Ray Hunt and other great Horseman 1998-2011

**Community Service**

Volunteer speaker at Wolf Springs to show and promote holistic range practices to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). July, 2008.

Volunteer speaker at North West Stock Show in Denver, Colorado for the *I Yak* association to promote holistic range grazing practices. January, 2006.

Assisted in coordination with the Wild Farm Alliance and the New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission to maintain and improve organic standards.

Ditch Rider for West Latir Ditch Association. 2000-2011

**Hobbies**

Avid Fly Fisherman and snowboarder. I enjoy kayaking, boating, hiking and camping with my family.