

ANTH 488 | Acequia Agroecology Permaculture Field School

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2014 Summer Term 'A'

June 23 – July 23



Lomas Garza. Curandera II. 1979. 1

Our 2014 field school will highlight collaborative projects with local teachers and experts in the ethnobotany and ethnomedical traditions of curanderas, doulas, parteras and other practitioners of interrelated community-based nursing and caregiving labors. The setting is the high alpine cultural heartland of the Río Arriba or Upper Rio Grande Headwaters communities of Spanish-Mexican-Mesoamerican-Native American-Sephardic-Persian-Moroccan peoples otherwise known as Chicanos\Chicanas. How do the realms of ethnobotany and acequia agroecology interweave? How do local women maintain the traditions of wildcrafting of medicinal and edible plants, mushrooms, tree saps, pine nuts, and other sources? How can these use rights strengthen sustainable, resilient, and equitable co-management of this watershed commonwealth, located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico? How is the ethnobotany of the acequia related to the practice of the production, consumption, and reproduction of *remedios* – the so-called folk remedies and curatives of tea, tincture, and balm-based homeopathic formulas to treat infections and parasites while promoting bodily integrity as part of a “whole way of life” integrating a heritage cuisine diet, joyful physical activity, and place-based spiritual practices. Applied group projects in 2014 will include: (1) Construction of another adobe *horno* (oven) and (2) a Seed Saver's Hutch, both with local-sourced materials; (3) The second season of repairs to a New Mexican system of terraces on an acequia farm south of Taos. Students will live and work with families at selected acequia farms. Classes will be held at The Acequia Institute.

5 CREDITS I&S. Writing credit. Capstone credit for majors in the Program on the Environment. Additional all inclusive field trip fee required. Approximately \$600.