

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 095

Title: Cerro Gordo Community

Extent: 6 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1974-1994

Language: English

Geographic Location: Cottage Grove, Oregon

Abstract: This collection consists of newsletters, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets from the community including a narrative of a visit to Alpha Farms, date unknown. Photographs of the community can be found at:

<http://digitalarchives.usi.edu/digital/collection/CSIC/search/searchterm/Cerro%20Gordo%20Community>

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Organic farming; Sustainable agriculture; Permaculture

Historical Notes: We are a dog-free community founded on ecological values, including organic land care & gardening. We practice sustainable forestry on 1100+ acres. Our houses are clustered into two neighborhoods, surrounded by shared forests and meadows, with many seasonal streams. We have shared water and septic systems, and share maintenance of the roads. I call Cerro Gordo 'semi-intentional' because the community has never been able to get to the level they planned. Its founders envisioned a self-sustainable eco-city, nestled in the hills of a 1200 acre former cattle ranch, with school, local jobs, and up to 2500 people. Instead, because of bad luck in land-use planning and not a little arrogance, the community is a patchwork of a dozen or so houses, about half of which are rented out to people like me. Most of the residents commute to nearby Cottage Grove or Eugene to work; the social life at Cerro Gordo, at least when I was there, was minimal to non-existent." It is difficult to establish a date for the founding of this community—the earliest date of materials in this collection is 1986. <http://www.ic.org/directory/cerro-gordo-community/> and <http://polymecca.com/living-the-temporary-dream>

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
Newsletters: Cerro Gordo Town Forum (January-February 1986); The Open Forum (August 1993, February/March 1994, April/May 1994)	1986-1994	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Newspaper Clippings: This Utopia is for the middle class (1974); What if we just started our own town? (1977)	1974-1977	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Paper: "Visiting The Neighbors at Alpha Farms"	n.d.	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Correspondence	1989	Folder 4	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Community Pamphlets	1977	Folder 5	Filing Cabinet 11-E
"Community Association" newsletter, no.1 vol.8 (August 1974)-no.1 vol.9 (September 1974)	1974	Folder 6	Filing Cabinet 11-E