

TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

I. What is it? Exploitation of a common, shared resource.

Mostly renewable resources
relatively cheap resources

II. Examples:

- Fish, wildlife
- Bathroom (public)
- Surface H_2O
 - ↳ oceans, rivers, lakes
- Groundwater
 - ↳ aquifers, wells, H_2O Table
- Atmosphere

∞ (lack of responsibility or responsibility is unclear)

III. Causes

- Lack of preparation/communication
- = Greed/Capitalistic view
- Short sightedness that supply will last forever
- ↑ Population
- ↑ Technology -
 - ↑ fossil use = ↑ pollution
 - ↑ sonar/boats = ↑ catch^{fish}
 - ↑ accessibility

IV. Effects:

- ↑ Extinct species

↳ ↓ biodiversity (genetic, species, ecosys.)

↳ Shift Tragedy to another species

↳ affects other species
in the food web.

~~organism A~~

↑ prey

↓ predator

↳ Populations more susceptible to disease

- Change weather patterns → ↑ Health Concerns

IV. Effects:

B. Water Rights in Southern California

Resource = ↓ H₂O

Causes = ecosystem = desert, coastal desert

low precip.

= ↑ Population

= Water is cheap \$

↑ Regulation
↑ Recycling H₂O

Result = ↑ import

Solutions = - Xeriscape = plants that are drought resistant
- Sliding scale of payment of H₂O

V. Solutions?

- ↑ Regulation
- ↑ Education
- ↑ Privatization
↳ owned by an individ./company
(take resp.)

V. Solutions

- Privatization: Ted Turner



V. Preserves/National Parks: must have land set aside by government system.