

# COMMON POOL RESOURCES

Knowledge test

## 1. Which of the following statements apply to common pool resources?

- All users have unrestricted access to the common pool resource.

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- A common pool resource is a commodity that is of no benefit to most people.

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- Rivalry exists between the different users of a common pool resource.

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- Common pool resources are, by definition, always natural resources, such as oceans or forests.

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## 2. Which of the following statements are true?

- Common pool resources often face problems of overuse.

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- In the case of common pool resources, there is often an excess supply.

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- Common pool resources existed in the Middle Ages, but have since disappeared.

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3. Give an example of a common pool resource from your everyday life and explain why it is a common pool resource.

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4. Which of the following statements best describes the problematic incentives arising from common pool resources?

Those who exercise restraint and do not use the resource are generally rewarded by higher, short-term benefits or profits.

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Those who do not exercise restraint and use the resource to a maximum are generally rewarded by higher short-term benefits or profits.

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Common pool resources are often destroyed because humans act irrationally and do not understand the existing incentives.

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Common pool resources are often destroyed because they belong to an owner who only has short-term profits in mind.

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5. Assume that four neighbouring farmers pasture their cattle on a shared piece of land (commonage) that belongs to the community. Because the pasture land is being severely overused, the following changes are being considered:

- a) The community will divide the pasture land into four private plots and sell them to the farmers.
- b) The community will double the size of the commonage by buying up additional land and give all four farmers access.

Which of these two measures do you think will solve the problem?

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