

The Complete Commons



There are relationships between [intellectual property](#) (IP) and [property in land](#). Both are monopolies protected by the coercive force of government. Many believe these monopolies have an important purpose – protecting the property owner and creator of ideas from theft.

Yet they do great harm to the economy by keeping land and ideas away from those who could make best use of them, all the while charging a monopoly price that is protected by the coercive power of the state. Moving land and ideas into the commons, respecting the rights of land owners and creators, and maximizing the benefits of both land and ideas is the complete commons.

To **eliminate the monopoly** in land, land **is purchased into the [commons trust](#)** in **one** payment and **rented** out for [exclusive use](#) to the highest bidder of ground rent in continuous auction.

To **eliminate the monopoly** in intellectual property, content **is purchased into the commons trust** in **periodic** payments from the ground **rent** on the basis of distribution and it is available at no charge for **shared use** by all.

The solution to the monopoly in land gives us the solution to the monopoly in intellectual property. We solve one and get the other for free.

Table 4.2	Solution				
Name	Monetized	Stage	Value	Terms	Use
Location Monopoly	Land	Collection	Consumes	Pays	Exclusive
IP Monopoly	Labor	Distribution	Produces	Paid	Shared

These two symmetrical pillars of civilization, land and ideas, are the primary ingredients of the commons. They each have symmetrical non-commons corollaries.

Goods are defined as the storage of labor in land, much as a battery stores energy. Leakage of labor from goods can be found in depreciation, consumption, and

breakage. Content is the “storage” of ideas. A product can be both the storage of physical labor in land and the instantiation of non-artistic content.

What is labor without land to store it in? Services. What are ideas without storage in content? Expression. In the intellectual property distribution, royalties are paid for expression of content, such as performances, even though nothing is moved into the commons.

Beside content and land, other things can be placed in the commons trust. The electromagnetic spectrum is a scarce resource that can be found nowhere else. Consider archeological and historical artifacts or historic works of art. The British National Trust, a commons trust in the UK, [has both land and artifacts in the trust](#). Besides gifts, the primary source of land and artifacts in the UK, how would the commons handle art and artifacts?

The land model would have artifacts purchased into the commons, and available to [treblers](#), such as museums and private homes, with a large insurance bond and possible security requirements. Using the intellectual property model, artifacts would be purchased into the commons over time by paying the owner royalties per view. Once the owner dies, or 25 years later, whichever takes longer, the artifact would be available to treblers.

The land model can be applied to all forms of “economic land”, which is another way of saying all parts of nature. An early free service of [VIP Land Management](#), offered to the world long before federation, is a treble market in [air rights](#).

Because deforestation is a global problem, there will be a treble market in timber rights. Not only must the lumber company treble the land, but they must also treble the timber rights to deforest the land. This could be extended to any natural resources. Treble the land and treble the right to mine the resource. Ground rents from natural resource trebling can be used to reward reforestation, or cleaning the air or recycling the waste.

The complete commons is our birthright. The property owned in common by everyone in the Federation, the world, and ultimately, the universe.