

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 essential purpose – protecting the property owner and creator of ideas from theft.

Yet they harm the economy by keeping land and ideas away from those who could make the best use of them while charging a monopoly price protected by the state's coercive power. 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, the land **is purchased into the [commons trust](#)** in **one** payment and **rented** out for [exclusive use](#) to the highest bidder of ground rent in a continuous auction.

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

The solution to the monopoly on land is the solution to the monopoly on 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 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 intellectual property distribution, royalties are paid for content presentation, such as performances, even though nothing is moved into the commons.

Besides content and land, other things can be placed in the common's 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 UK's primary source of land and artifacts, how might 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,” 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, timber rights will have a treble market. The lumber company must treble the land and 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, clean the air, or recycle waste.

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