



**HUMAN DIMENSIONS
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Introduction to Common Pool Resource Theory

*A primer for learning and teaching
September 2020*

Compiled by Dr. Rebecca L. Gruby with input from commons scholars

**** Open access**

Introduction to common pool resource theory: Key concepts

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Critiques and critical commons scholarship:

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Interactive teaching resources

Commons Governance Simulation: I have successfully used a computer simulation created by Ron Mitchell at the University of Oregon to teach students about the emergence of cooperation in commons governance. It is *essential* that you play multiple rounds of the game and change the constraints on student behavior to enable cooperation to emerge (I begin the simulation with no communication and no external involvement, eventually moving to full and open communication among the students. The students always design rules to prevent over-exploitation).

<https://rmitchel.uoregon.edu/commons>

Social Rules Project: Paul Steinberg and his students have created some excellent interactive teaching resources related to 'social rules' here: <http://www.rulechangers.org/>