

VISUAL 2.1

A PERSPECTIVE ON PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

We do not have thousands of dollars. We do not have great mansions of beauty. We do not have priceless works of art But today, I want to tell you we do not need these things. We do not live a life of ease, nor do we live in luxury. We do not own the land upon which we live. We do not have the basic things of life which we are told are necessary to better ourselves But today, I want to tell you that we do not need these things. What we do need, however, is what we already have. What we do need has been provided for us the Great Spirit We need to realize who we are and what we stand for. And we need to resist the temptation to be just like the white man We are the keepers of that which the Great Spirit has given to us, that is our language, our culture, our drum societies, our religion, and most important of all, our traditional way of life.

Egiwaateshkang, George Aubid, Sr., 1989.
Past Chief of the Mississippi Band, Anishinabe

Source: Rick Whaley and Walt Bresette, *Walleye Warriors, The Chippewa Treaty Story* (Warner, NH: Writers Publishers Cooperative, 1994), pp. xiv-xv.

 VISUAL 2.2**THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS**

The term *tragedy of the commons* refers to the idea that when resources are owned in common, they are likely to be abused.

TRASH IN THE PARK AND TRASH AT HOME

- A young couple has a picnic in a park.
- When they leave the park, they fail to notice two paper plates, some plastic forks and spoons and some sandwich bags that they leave behind near the picnic table.
- When the couple arrive at their home, they notice that several sheets of newspaper have blown into their front yard. Almost without thinking, they pick up the paper and toss it into the trash can in the garage.

 **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

Why would the same people leave litter in a park and then pick up litter left by others in their yard?

VISUAL 2.3

OWNERSHIP OF RESOURCES

Resource	Privately Owned?	Commonly Owned?
A. Clothing and tools for cooking among most American Indian groups		
B. Fruit and nut trees among the Northern Paiute of California		
C. Farmland among the Hopi who were settled farmers		
D. High quality stone used to make arrowheads among Plains Indians		
E. Grazing lands for buffalo among Plains Indians.		