PHIL 224 Environmental Ethics, Week 5 Paul Thagard

 Use of laptops (tablets, etc.) is discouraged, and limited to the last two rows.



Assignment 2, Oct. 27

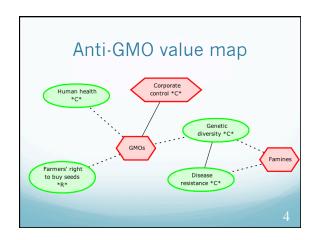
- Do value map for either carbon tax or Keystone XL.
- Additions from assignment 1:
 - Nodes must be simple, e.g. CARBON TAX or KEYSTONE XL.
- Marker of *C* for consequences or *R* for rights for all positive and negative concepts.
- Conclusion, 50-100 words, on why you think the yes map or the no map is ethically superior.

2

DO NOT

- 1. Confuse emotionally positive and negative concepts, or complimentary and conflicting links.
- 2. Have the same node both positive and negative.
- Have nodes that are completely unconnected to other nodes.
- Have connections that don't make sense, e.g. having LOVE OF ANIMALS linked supportively with ANIMAL SUFFERING.
- 5. Present both the pro and con side in the same map.

3



Genetically Modified Organisms

Consequentialist arguments against

- 1. Health dangers
- Control of agriculture by a few large companies, e.g. Monsanto
- 3. Loss of genetic diversity leading to future disasters

Rights argument against: farmer's right to buy seeds

Consequentialist arguments for

- 1. Reduce world hunger
- 2. Increase profits for farmers

5

Is nature a resource?

Yes: humans need to make optimal use of nature for current and future generations. Resourcism.

No: nature needs to be protected for its own sake.

Practical consequences?

Should environmental ethics come from the heart or the mind?

6

Discussion Question

- Is nature a resource for people, or good in itself?
- · Please close laptops.

7

Connectivity

- Leopold: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community."
- Treat nature as a whole, not just a bunch of parts to be exploited.
- Holism vs. reductionism vs. multilevelism.

8

Ethics for Parks

- Ethical dilemma: reconcile ecocentric and anthropocentric views.
- Should provincial and national parks be preserved for their own sake or for future generations?
- Does it matter?
- Does having a code of ethics help or hinder environmental protection?

9

Government tools for conserving natural heritage

- 1. Acquire lands
- 2. Regulate private landowners
- 3. Use tax measures to provide incentives

10

Ethics of Markets

Advantages

- 1. Liberty
- 2. Fairness
- 3. Economic efficiency.

Disadvantages

- Side-effects: externalities.
- Inequalities: assymetries of power.
- 3. Tragedy of the commons: Everyone is worse off.
- 4. Freedom from control by others vs. freedom to do things.
- 5. Nature is unpriceable.

11

Discussion Question

- Are markets an effective way to conserve nature?
- Please close laptops.

10