



Natural Inquirer: Science, Standards & Sustainable Development



This year's North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference focuses on sustainability and environmental education. In particular there are strands that include sustainable environment, sustainable society, and sustainable economy. Within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service there is also a focus on sustainability. The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Additionally, the USDA Forest Service's motto is "Caring for the Land and Serving People". Science and environmental education can help promote sustainability efforts. The *Natural Inquirer* journal produced by the USDA Forest Service is a great resource to help teach about forest resource management and sustainability. The journal is targeted to middle school and high school level students.

Specifically, the *Natural Inquirer* journal directly supports sustainability efforts and science education by educating individuals on forest management and natural resource science. The *Natural Inquirer* journal contains the following features:

- **Meet the Scientist-** invites students to learn about the scientists and see that there are all different types of scientists.
- **Thinking about Science-** encourages students to think critically about different science topics such as geographic limits, economics, social science, and the scientific process.
- **Thinking about Environment-** promotes students to reflect on different environmental topics such as habitat, invasive species, and global warming.
- **Science Articles with Discussion Section and Reflection Questions-** allows students to experience the format of a real journal article and asks students to evaluate what they read as they go through the article.
- **FACTivity-** provides an opportunity for students to engage in an activity that reinforces or illustrates a concept in the article.
- **Articles Correlated to National Science Education Standards and Benchmarks 2061-** identifies standards that are met by each article so that educators can more easily find an article to use that supports the standard they are teaching.

Two *Natural Inquirer* Editions Coming Soon:

Wilderness Benefits

Invasive Species

For more information or to order free *Natural Inquirer* journals, visit our web site at <http://www.naturalinquirer.usda.gov>



(Gates of the Arctic Wilderness, photo courtesy of Brian Glaspell)