

MEASURING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

IN FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, AND MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

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ABSTRACT

Lewis, Ruth M., M.S., Program of Natural Resources Management, College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, North Dakota State University, March 2008. Measuring Environmental Literacy in Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota. Major Professor: Dr. Mark Meister.

Environmental literacy has been a topic of discussion among educators and natural resource managers since the late 1960s. The topic has encompassed many perspectives about how to define the term, how to teach it, and how to measure it. This research surveyed randomly selected residents from Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota. The survey measured the participants' knowledge of general environmental issues from a local, regional, and national perspective. The study found that survey participants were somewhat aware of environmental issues, as well as displayed attitudes and behaviors similar to other measures of environmental literacy. This study provides a summary of findings regarding how the respondents learn about the environment and how they would prefer to learn. The information gathered through this survey will be useful for public agencies and organizations in developing and maintaining public outreach programs.