K. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

K-LS1-1. **Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of patterns could include that animals need to take in food but plants do not; the different kinds of food needed by different types of animals; the requirement of plants to have light; and, that all living things need water.]

K-ESS2-2. **Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of plants and animals changing their environment could include a squirrel digs in the ground to hide its food and tree roots can break concrete.]

K-ESS3-1. **Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.** [Examples of relationships could include that deer eat buds and leaves, therefore, they usually live in forested areas; and, grasses need sunlight so they often grow in meadows. Plants, animals, and their surroundings make up a system.]

K-ESS3-3. **Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.*** [Clarification Statement: Examples of human impact on the land could include cutting trees to produce paper and using resources to produce bottles. Examples of solutions could include reusing paper and recycling cans and bottles.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Connections to other DCIs in kindergarten:
K.ETS1.A(K-ESS3-3)

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels:
1.LS1.A (K-LS1-1),(K-ESS3-1); **2.LS2.A** (K-LS1-1); **2.ETS1.B** (K-ESS3-3); **3.LS2.C** (K-LS1-1); **3.LS4.B** (K-LS1-1);**4.ESS2.E** (K-ESS2-2); **4.ESS3.A** (K-ESS3-3); **5.LS1.C** (K-LS1-1); **5.LS2.A** (K-LS1-1),(K-ESS3-1); **5.ESS2.A** (K-ESS2-2),(K-ESS3-1); **5.ESS3.C** (K-ESS3-3)

Common Core State Standards Connections:
ELA/Literacy -

R.K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text. (K-ESS2-2)

W.K.1 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book. (K-ESS2-2)

W.K.2 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic. *(K-ESS2-2),(K-ESS3-3)*

W.K.7 Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them). (K-LS1-1)

SL.K.5 Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail. *(K-ESS3-1)*

Mathematics -

MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. *(K-ESS3-1)*

MP.4 Model with mathematics. *(K-ESS3-1)*

K.CC Counting and Cardinality *(K-ESS3-1)*

K.MD.A.2 Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common, to see which object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute, and describe the difference. *(K-