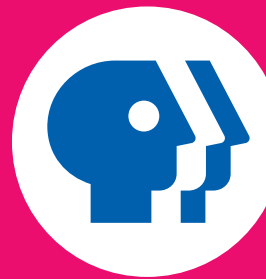


2022



PBS Reno
Curiosity Classroom

**WRITERS
CONTEST**

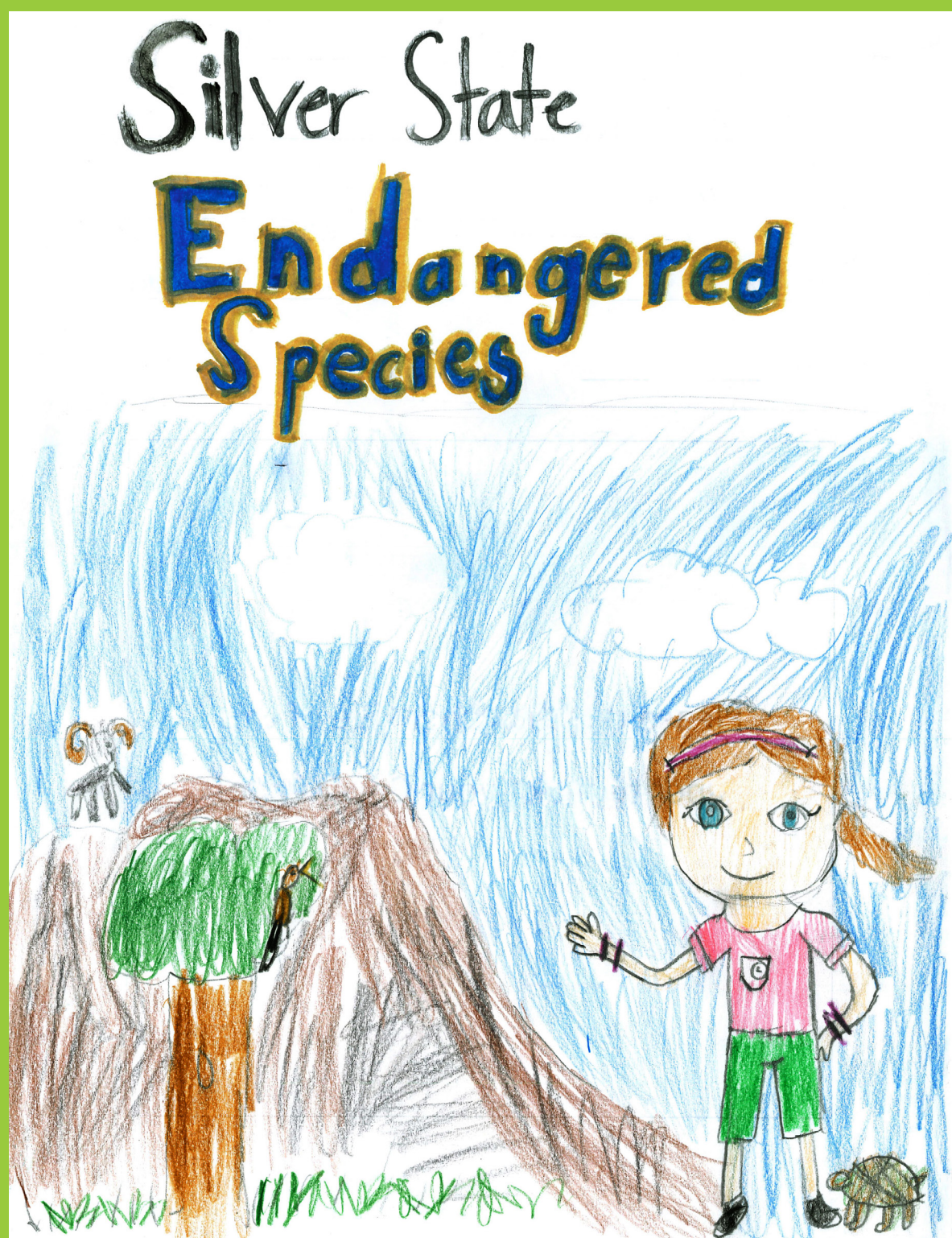


pbsreno.org/writerscontest

THIRD GRADE: 2nd Place

**“Silver State
Endangered Species”
by Molly**

Westergard Elementary School



You've probably thought about endangered animals, but have you ever wondered about endangered animals in our region? Well, I'm going to be your guide on investigating all about a few local endangered animals. So get ready to investigate!

The first endangered animal to meet is the Sierra Nevada Bighorn sheep. These sheep live on rocky areas along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevadas. Can you believe that only 600 are left? That's not a lot. The bighorns are endangered due to diseases and domestic sheep, predators, and effects from the weather. It's very sad.

Have you ever heard of the yellow-billed Cuckoo bird? It has a yellow beak and beautiful black and white tail feathers, a white tummy, and a brown coat on top. The important fact about this is that they need a riparian habitat to live. But sadly, their habitat is being destroyed by increased farming and livestock. That means they have no home!

Last but not least! The desert tortoise is found in the Sonoran deserts. Tortoises eat cacti, wildflowers, and grasses. It's sad, but these tortoises are threatened by habitat loss and human disturbance! There's only 100,000 left right now. They're brownish and they have a turtle like body. Desert tortoises move slowly too! (That helps to watch them.)

I had a lot of fun being your guide and investigating more about endangered animals in our region. So, if you ever see any of the three animals discussed, just remember not to touch them because they're special!