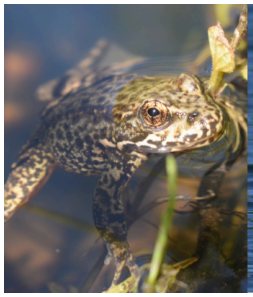

Plumas Audubon Society

October 18, 2026

Dear Community Member,

In March 2026, Plumas Audubon Society (PAS) hosted our first Plumas Environmental Education Program (PEEP) Fundraising Dinner to kick off an ongoing fundraising campaign. **We are now seeking community members, businesses, and organizations interested in sponsoring a PEEP student or class** and supporting PEEP's mission of inspiring youth to explore and connect with their local ecosystems, natural resources, and public lands.

Since 2016, PEEP has been working alongside Plumas Unified School District's (PUSD) Outdoor Core Program as the leading partner for the 5th-grade "Year of the Bird." The PEEP curriculum allows students to explore local ecosystems, encourages them to make connections between environmental health and community well-being, and use that knowledge to steward the land through hands-on service-learning projects.

Over the years, PEEP has evolved into a comprehensive curriculum for teachers to use in their classes. In recent years, through fundraising and grants, we have provided a monthly bird-focused environmental education program in every 5th-grade class in all four Plumas County public schools, led by PAS staff and volunteers. In 2025, PEEP expanded to serve not only the PUSD elementary schools but also led a limited number of field trips with the Quincy Charter School and Loyalton Elementary School.

Check Out Plumas Audubon Society's Birds and Climate Change Curriculum

www.plumasaudubon.org/birds-and-climate-change-curriculum

Our vision is to expand PEEP with more frequent visits to all of the schools in Plumas County, including the Charters, as well as expanding the program to serve students at Loyalton Elementary School in Sierra County. We also aim to incorporate nature journaling and active observation as a core component of each lesson, further enhancing our mission of inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

Unfortunately, due to limited funds, we had to scale back PEEP for the 2026-2027 school year. We hope to offer a condensed two-month program in the spring, but we were unable to offer any of our regular monthly fall and winter classes and field trips. **PEEP requires an annual budget of $10,000 in order to provide monthly visits to all six 5th grade classes in all four PUSD elementary schools in Plumas County (10 classes and field trips total per class).** In previous years, through fundraising and grants, we have been able to meet this budget, but as the school year comes to a close, the remaining funds leave us unable to commit to a full year of classes the following year.

To remedy this funding shortfall, we are launching an annual "Sponsor a Student" campaign.

By donating $100, you will be sponsoring one PEEP student for one full year. Every supporter will be listed on our website and Spring Fundraiser dinner program. Supporters will also receive a monthly digital newsletter exclusive to PEEP Sponsors with information on the classes and field trips the students are participating in that month.

Sponsors who donate $150 or more will also be reserved a seat at our Spring Fundraiser dinner, where they can hear testimonials from local educators and students on the impact of PEEP on outdoor youth education in Plumas County, as well as participate in lessons from the PEEP curriculum.

Individuals and organizations that would like to sponsor an entire PEEP class can do so either at the Chester/Greenville level of $1,500, which sponsors a class of 17 students for one year, or at the Quincy/Portola level of $2,000, which sponsors a class size of 24 students for one year.

From all of us at PAS, thank you so much for your support of environmental education in rural northern California communities.

With gratitude,

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