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Future Tense

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Environmental group offers endangered animal sounds for ring tones

RealAudio - MP3 - iTunes

An environmental group is offering recordings of endangered animals for people to use as free cell phone ring tones. The idea is to get people to hear the animals' sounds so they'll wonder where they came from, and question the fate of the creatures that make them.

At the Web site of the Center for Biological Diversity, you can download the sounds of the rare Pine Barrens tree frog, the how of a Mexican gray wolf, the bellows of an Arctic beluga whale, and more.

More than 24,000 people have downloaded the free endangered animal ring tones, said Michael Robinson, conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Ring tones can help to foster change, said Peter Leyden, director of the New Politics Institute.