Minneapolis Star-Tribune

Endangered animal sounds are latest cell phone ring tones

Last update: March 08, 2007 – 4:17 PM

Looking for a ring tone that will set you apart from the crowd? How about the cheerful chirp of a rare, Brazilian bird, the lonely howl of the Mexican wolf or even the throaty "ribbit, ribbit" of the Rio Grande leopard frog?

These and other endangered animal recordings can be downloaded for free through the Center for Biological Diversity's website (www.rare earthtones.org). The nonprofit conservation group began offering wildlife ringtones to make more people aware of their cause.

"It's one thing to tell people about endangered species, but if you actually hear the call of an orca [whale] or the hoot of an owl, it's going to catch your attention," said Jeff Miller, a conservation advocate at the center.

There have been more than 24,000 ring-tone downloads off the site. Coming soon: polar bear and jaguar ring tones.

ALLIE SHAH