

AlaskaDispatch

News and voices from the Last Frontier

Sex and the modern environmentalist: Endangered species condoms

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We're not sure whether this story will inspire or kill romantic moods, but we'll leave it to you readers to sort out. Unsatisfied with merely defending the protected status and habitats of endangered and threatened species, a national group of environmentalists has launched a new approach to awareness, a light hearted spin on traditional sex education.

Like Brian Fantana, the reporter character from the newly-released "AnchorMan 2," The Center for Biological Diversity has put together its own collection of condoms.

It's not uncommon for the Center to take its fights on behalf of animals and the environment to federal policymakers and into the courtroom. But now, the group wants you thinking about these matters in the privacy of your own homes. It's handing out endangered species condoms in hopes that the most private



The Center for Biological Diversity's endangered species condom packages feature a catchy slogan and stylized illustration. Center for Biological Diversity image

of private moments can also become acts of activism.

"Wrap with care...save the polar bear," is one of the slogans Alaskans may find appealing among the six varieties, each colorfully wrapped and representing a different endangered species.

"Endangered Species Condoms not only help endangered species like polar bears, but also help avoid

unintended pregnancies," Taralynn Reynolds, population and sustainability organizer at the Center, said in a statement about the campaign. "The Earth's population now tops 7 billion people, and that has a huge impact on wildlife, climate and the resources we all need to survive."

These important topics need to be talked about and "the

endangered species condoms give people a fun, unique way to start the conversation,” Reynolds said.

The other condom slogans represent land, air and sea animals:

“Don’t go bare...panthers are rare”

“Safe intercourse...saves the dwarf seahorse”

“When you’re feeling tender...think about the hellbender”

“Be a savvy lover... protect the snowy plover”

“In the sack? Save the leatherback”

The Center for Biological Diversity is well known in Alaska. Its notorious anti-development reputation, and campaigns, have often positioned it as a legal adversary to the state’s pro-oil interests, most recently with respect to offshore development in the Arctic. It has also challenged drilling permits in Cook Inlet, arguing that it would further threaten endangered Cook Inlet Beluga whales.

Other causes it has taken on have included protection of Arctic bearded seals, fresh water seals, and attempting

to block oil drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, just to name a few. Alaska Governor Sean Parnell has been vocal in recent years about his frustration in how the Endangered Species Act is used in the courts to thwart development.

So what’s the link between spending years as defenders of endangered species and habitats, and this new interest in sex?

On its condom website, the Center explains it has to do with the “sixth mass extinction crisis” -- human population growth so rapid that it’s “pushing other species off the planet.”

“This population explosion is too often ignored by the public, the media and even the environmental movement, while it continues to drive all the major environmental problems that plague our planet -- including climate change, habitat loss, ocean acidification and resource depletion,” the Center states.