

ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

Animal-themed condoms aim to make a point about overpopulation

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With messages like, “In the sack? Save the leatherback” and “Safe intercourse saves the dwarf seahorse,” wildlife advocates intend to make a bold point about overpopulation.

A dozen volunteers in Georgia and half as many in South Carolina will be passing out wildlife-themed condoms with cheeky slogans on Friday, which is World Population Day.

The condom distribution day, put on by the Center for Biological Diversity, is aimed at showing how a booming human population makes it harder for other living creatures to survive, sending wildlife into extinction.

Georgia cities to see condom crusaders include Warner Robins, Sandy Springs, Atlanta and Decatur. Cities in South Carolina included as part of the program are Spartanburg, Greenville and Summerville.

Against the bristling of some socially conservative interest groups, about 500 volunteers will be passing out 40,000 free Endangered Species Condoms across the country.

The nation’s five fastest-growing states, according to the Center are: North Dakota, Utah, Colorado, Texas and Nevada. Volunteers will visit county fairs, malls, festivals, and parks.

“Every day we add 227,000 people to an already-crowded planet,” said Taralynn Reynolds, the Center’s population and sustainability organizer. “Meanwhile wildlife are going extinct at a breakneck pace, and rarely do we pause to talk about the well-documented effects our exploding numbers have on other species, the planet and our own future, especially here in the United States.”

A study in the journal Science revealed that human population increases and human consumption has driven species extinctions by at least 1,000 times the natural rate.