

Environmental activists use cell-phone ring tones to make a statement

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Amid the cacophony of cell-phone ring tones these days, add these:

- The clickety-click-click of a rare Central American poison arrow dart frog
- The howl of a Mexican gray wolf
- The bellows of an Arctic beluga whale

An environmental group is hoping that the more people hear these sounds from threatened animals, the more they'll wonder where they came from — and question the fate of the animals and birds that make them.

Like other activist groups, the Center for Biological Diversity is looking to the immediate attention cell phones can bring to its cause. Already, about 24,000 people have downloaded the rare rings for free from the center's Web site, biologicaldiversity.org.

In addition to the wolf and the whale, there are ring tones from several species of frogs from around the world, a few South American birds and North American owls. The poison arrow dart frog will be added to the list soon.

Some at the center say the howl ring tone might be one of the only recordings of the Mexican gray wolf in the wild.