



San Francisco Zoo Anmail - December 2007

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Endangered Species Big Year Competition

See and help the most species between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, and win the Big Year!

(Click the image below to download this beautiful poster!)



Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 6, 2008 for the launch of the 2008 Endangered Species Big Year. It all starts at the Zoo with a kick-off event and a hike with conservationists to see the Threatened snowy plover.

The Zoo's biggest neighbor is the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The GGNRA contains more endangered species than any other National Park in continental North America. This is certainly cause for celebration, but also for concern. Take part in the GGNRA's Endangered Species Big Year and get to know these species while helping them recover.

The Big Year is a race against time to see each of the 33 endangered and threatened species that live in the GGNRA's diverse habitats, while taking 33 discrete conservation recovery actions that will prevent these species from going extinct. It is a competitive event: the person who sees and helps the most species between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, will win the Big Year. In the process, we hope you will discover the humility, compassion, and hope embodied in the legal protections for this land and our imperiled neighbors.

Here is how the Endangered Species Big Year works:

- Sign-up and download your "checklist" of the 33 listed species found in the GGNRA and the 33 conservation action items you can take to help these species recover (checklist available soon).
- Check-out the Calendar of Big Year events for special trips to see endangered species, find opportunities to help them recover, and sign up for some trips. Or explore the park on your own.
- To check one of the 33 federally protected threatened or endangered species off your list, you must observe the species alive while you and/or the species are within the GGNRA's legislative boundary. You also need to complete the specific conservation action item listed on the checklist - no substitutions allowed. The action items are located at the bottom of each species' page.
- If you are within the boundary but the species is outside of the boundary (for example, you witness a humpback whale breaching 5 miles off the coast while you are standing on Ocean Beach), you can still count it as a sighting. Similarly, if the species is inside the boundary but you are outside of the boundary when you see it, you may still count it as a sighting. However, if both the species and you are outside the legislative boundary when you see it, you may not count it as a sighting.
- All participants must agree to comply with the Endangered Species Big Year's Ethical Wildlife Viewing Principles. No exceptions.
- All sightings and conservation action items must be completed no sooner than 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 2008, and no later than 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2008.
- The Big Year runs on the honor system. No one will be looking over your shoulder to make sure you fill out your checklist accurately, but highly unusual sightings may be subject to verification.
- Enter all of your sightings on the Big Year Web site. (coming January 1, 2008).
- Sign up for an e-mail alert so you'll be the first to know when a southern sea otter is spotted off Ocean Beach or the San Bruno elfin butterfly is flying. (coming January 1, 2008)
- Interact with other participants on each species Big Year profile: it works like comments on a blog. (coming January 1, 2008).



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