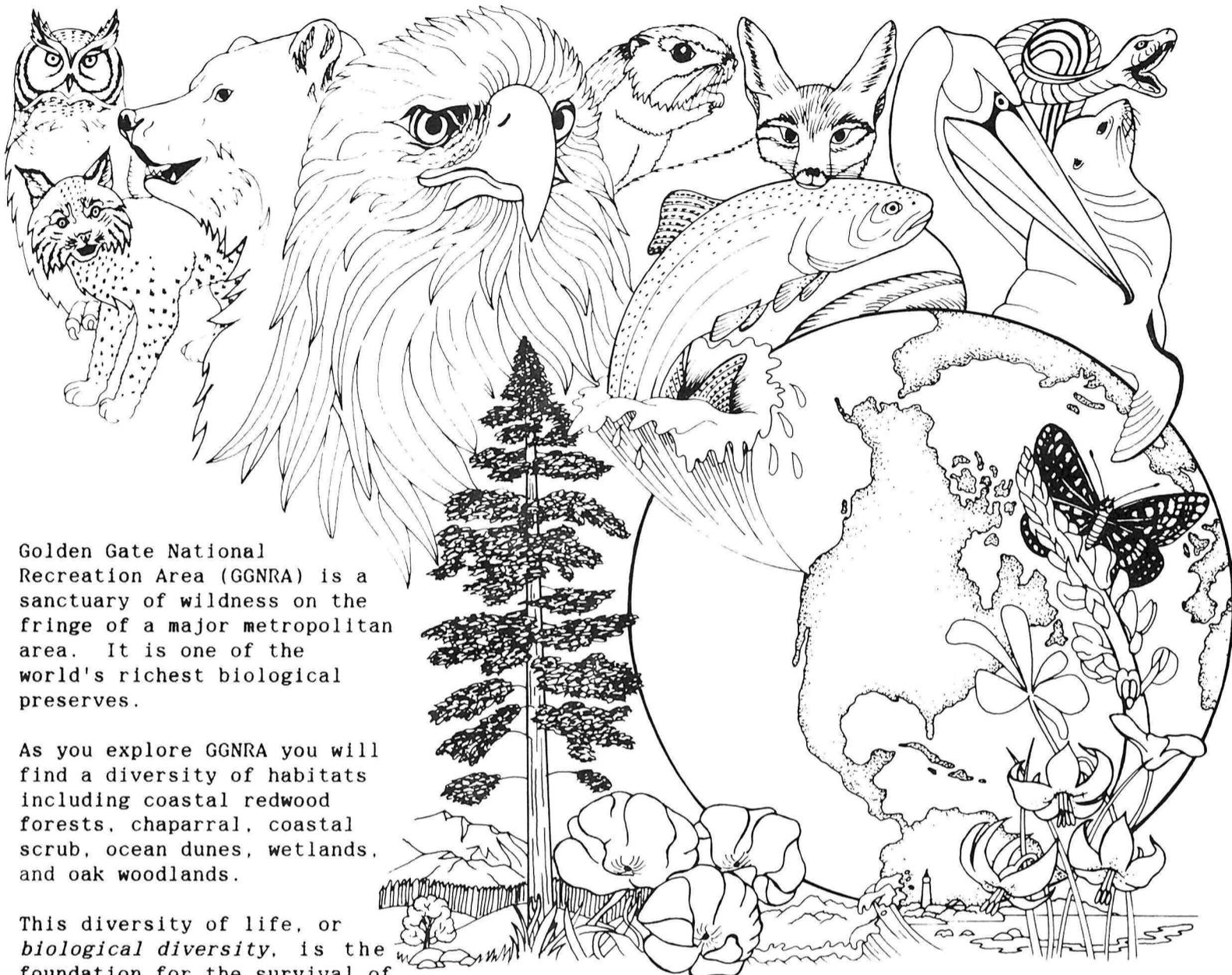


## DIVERSITY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE



Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is a sanctuary of wildness on the fringe of a major metropolitan area. It is one of the world's richest biological preserves.

As you explore GGNRA you will find a diversity of habitats including coastal redwood forests, chaparral, coastal scrub, ocean dunes, wetlands, and oak woodlands.

This diversity of life, or *biological diversity*, is the foundation for the survival of all living things on our planet.

### Our lives depend on it.

The critical importance of Earth's biological diversity has only recently been realized. The National Park Service wants to help get the word out that we must preserve healthy ecosystems and habitats in order to maintain this essential variety of life.

We rely on biological diversity to provide healthy, stable food sources, medicines, and "ecosystem services"—clean air, clean water, and recycling of nutrients.

The National Park Service plays a significant role in preserving our country's biological and cultural heritage. Over fifty percent of our nation's plants and animals and a rich variety of cultural resources are

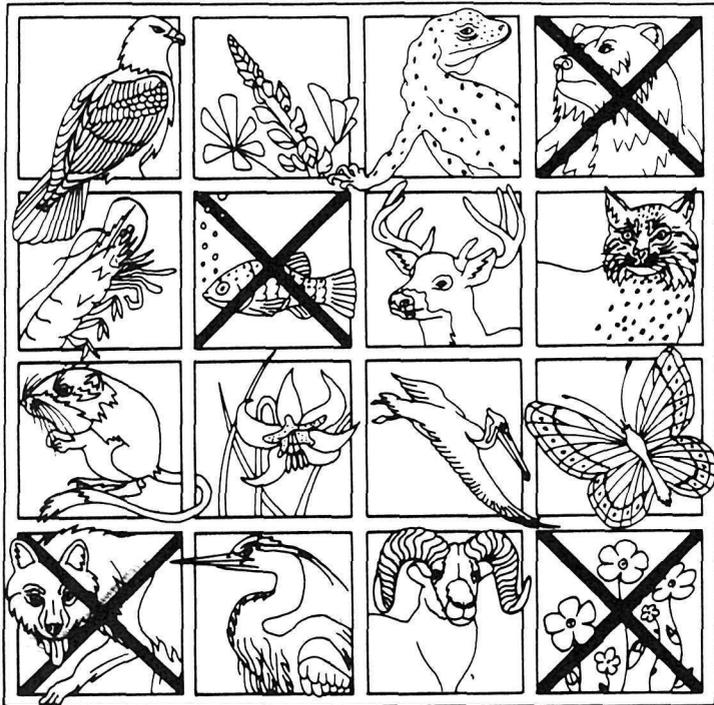
represented within the national parks. GGNRA has ten federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Habitat preservation and restoration are key factors in the recovery of endangered and threatened species. The recovery of endangered and threatened species contributes to the diversity of life.

Each of us can preserve and protect biological diversity every day.

When you conserve and recycle paper (trees), tin and aluminum cans (minerals), and glass (which consumes high amounts of fossil fuels in production), you reduce the need to take valuable resources from forests, oceans, and other life-giving habitats.

# Each of us can preserve biological diversity everyday.

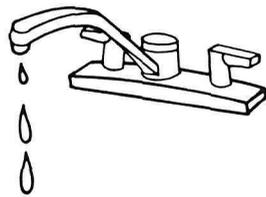


Species are disappearing from Earth at an alarming rate-- approximately two per day.

Modern day technology saves lives. It increases the flow of information. It builds neighborhoods and brings prosperity. It also destroys plant and animal habitat and can sometimes lead to species extinction and loss of biological diversity.

The greatest cause of loss of biodiversity is habitat destruction. Each of us can help preserve habitats.

What you can do to make a difference:



## Volunteer

Join National Park Service Rangers and Volunteers:

- Serve on a habitat restoration team.
- Work at the California Native Plant Nursery.
- Monitor the health of streams.
- Remove invasive exotic plants and restore growth of native habitats.
- Help educate the public as a docent.

For more information on these National Park Service Programs in GGNRA call 556-0693.

## Conserve and recycle

- Participate in or organize a recycling program for your neighborhood, office, school, or classroom.
- At home, recycle aluminum cans, glass containers, newspapers, and office paper to greatly reduce consumption of resources and decrease pollution associated with manufacturing these products from scratch.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- Take public transportation.
- Use water sparingly.

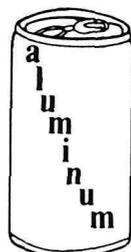
## Join others

- Join a conservation organization that preserves and restores habitats.
- Support local tree plantings with groups like Friends of the Urban Forests.

## Spread the word

- Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about the importance of conserving biological diversity and what you are doing to help conserve it.
- Tell them how they too can make a big difference in conserving tomorrow.

If you accomplish just one of these things you are making a contribution to maintaining the diversity of life.



*Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand of it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself.*