

From: jaden raffin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 2:49 PM
To: Parks - City of Burnaby <Parks@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Attn: Kathryn Matts – Commission Secretary: Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express concern for the management of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area (BMCA). I have reason to believe that there are Townsend's Moles living in BMCA - attached is a photo evidencing this, which was taken on the 19th of May, 2020. Measurements of three mole-hills were taken at between 23 and 32cm in diameter, a very common size for this species. According to a study by the Canadian Department of the Environment in 2003, this species of mole is classed as endangered. It is imperative that the Burnaby City Council moves to protect the Townsend's Mole, if only because they are shown to drastically improve aeration and soil drainage (B.C. Ministry of Environment, 1999). My class has been researching endangered species and traditional First Nation's land conservation this year, and the issue at hand pertains to both of these subjects. I would like the council to raise public awareness of the Townsend's Mole. Given permission (and a small amount of funding), Burnaby Height's class of EMH419 would happily investigate the population of moles in BMCA, signifying the first step towards progress in a landmark (pardon the pun) sustainability issue.

Kind Regards, Tim McStudent.

British Columbia (B.C.) Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (1999). *Townsend's Mole: Urban Environment and Intensive Agriculture have placed the Townsend's Mole at risk*. Retrieved from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk/brochures/townsend_s_mole.pdf

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). (2003). *COSEWIC assessment and update status report on Townsend's mole Scapanus townsendi in Canada*. Retrieved from https://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/cosewic/sr_townsend_s_mole_e.pdf

Note:

The Townsend's Mole, *Scapanus townsendii*, is one of the rarest, small mammals in Canada found only in the Lower Mainland of BC. It is a protected species and is considered during any habitat disturbing activity. In current construction projects an environmental monitor is brought out to review the plans and monitor construction. Staff will contact the writer and review options for future assessment and protection of the species.

Attachment

