

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

	2016. 02, 29
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M2
Name	Josue Alejandro Pastrana

1. Country/location of visit
Jigokudani, Nagano, Japan
2. Research project
Visiting Field Site of Jigokudani, observing unique behavior of bathing in hot spring.
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 02. 23 – 2012. 02. 26 (03 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Michael Huffman, Professor at Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University (supervisor)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>The monkeys in Jigokudani in the prefecture of Nagano, Japan, have a very interesting and peculiar behavior that has been well documented for decades; soaking in the natural hot springs. During our visit, we had the great opportunity to go in a snowy day where we were able to see the famous “snow head caps” on the monkeys as they soaked for a long time in the hot water. There were many tourists on that day but the animals did not seem to mind their presence, even though they were surrounded by all the visitors from all angles. It was interesting to see all of the various behaviors typical of the species even when soaking in really hot water, such as grooming, feeding, resting, playing, huddling, among others. It was also really peculiar to see the animals walk completely soaked from the water in the middle of the snow, between all the humans, and not even mind them the least. The animals are definitely habituated to human presence in this site.</p> <p>In the evening we had the opportunity to have dinner with the staff and the director where we talked about the challenges of running a place with many visitors, how the troops have changed over time, and how they are comparable to other field sites. We also had the opportunity to talk with a visiting scientist who also works with Japanese monkeys in a very snowy environment, and we were able to talk about the similarities and differences from the animals in Jigokudani vs the ones the scientists’ field site.</p> <p>It was also a great experience to get into the hot springs in the area after a whole day in the snow below freezing temperatures. The accommodations were great, and the staff was very helpful at all times. In our free time, the staff took us to various attractions around the area such as the old town and the park. It was a very friendly town and I would recommend anyone to visit.</p> <p>As I am currently studying stress in relationship to the environment, it was also good to have a colleague who has been studying stress with the group during our stay. She was very informative and helped us with our trip. As I think of possible field sites to study stress in, it was great to hear the colleagues input and to think it as a potential field site in the future to continue my studies in stress. I am really grateful for the PWS program for its support and I do hope I get another opportunity to visit again!</p>
6. Others

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”



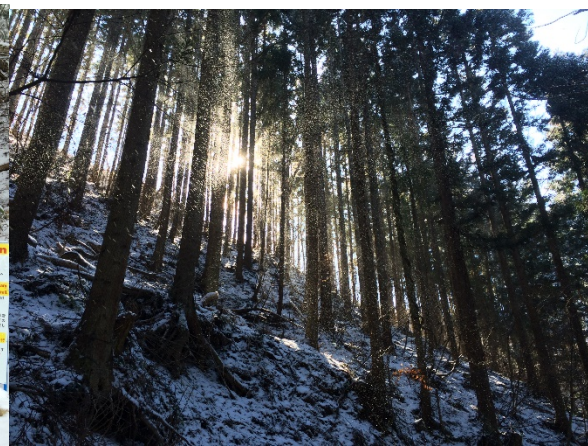
A view from the monkey park.



Dinner with the staff from the monkey park and colleagues.



Our group about to start the hike up the mountain.



Snowing in the forest.



Monkeys grooming in the hot spring.



Monkey playing with bag.