

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2018.3.28

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D3
Name	Miho Saito

1. Country/location of visit
Okuibuki, Shiga/ Sasagamine, Niigata
2. Research project
Ski practice and attend Sasagamine snow season course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018.3.6 (1 day) for pre-practice course and 3.22 – 26 (5 days) for Sasagamine course
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Sugiyama, Prof. Matsuzawa, Prof. Koshima and Prof. Fukushima
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>This was my third time to visit Sasagamine. After coming back from Sasagamine, the feeling which I remembered the most from this course is the fear towards nature. We climbed Mt. Mitahara on the fourth day. When we came close to the top, I looked around and noticed that we really came to the high elevation. When I looked back, there was no tree and the wind was strong, only steep slope which was covered by snow was there. I felt I could easily slip down and get injured. After I felt fear I decided not to look back again and just continued to walk to the top. Additionally, we were standing on the snow cornice without noticing it. There were several moments which could trigger a big incident. I felt we should be more careful in the snow mountain.</p> <p>Because I usually do ski in ski resort, it was my first time to do it in the forests where trees stands everywhere in such a short distance. One time I crushed with Inoue san because of the low visibility and one time I hit my face with branches when I changed the direction. Helmet could be the important item if we do ski in such conditions as Maegan mentioned during the last meeting.</p> <p>Even though sometimes there were tough and scary moments, the view of snow mountains from the top was really great and I would feel that I want to come back here again.</p>

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Figure 1. View from the top of Mt. Mitahara



Figure 2. First time to see snow cornice
(The top of Mt. Mitahara)

6. Others

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PWS program for supporting me to join this course. Additionally, I thank Prof. Sugiyama, Prof. Matsuzawa, Prof. Koshima and Prof. Fukushima for supporting us during the field course.