

HOWLER MONKEY DEMOGRAPHICS AND BEHAVIOR RESEARCH

Description: Collect demographic and behavioral data on populations of Mantled Howler Monkeys in the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve



Project summary: A large population of Mantled Howler Monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) makes its home in the Lalo Loor reserve. Interns will collect data on the demographics and ecology of howler monkey groups in the reserve. This data is needed to determine whether the population is stable or changing, assess movement patterns, and identify important resources for the primates within the Lalo Loor reserve. Interns will spend long days in the forest following monkey troops to record data on troop size, gender, age, activity, and food sources. Interns will also map, identify, and tag feeding trees and troop locations. Encounters

with the rarer White-fronted Capuchin will also be recorded. Data collected will be entered into a database and used to generate an annual population estimate for howler monkeys in the Lalo Loor reserve. Interns may also create educational materials about the biology of these two monkey species.

What you'll do:

- Learn the sampling protocols used to collect howler data
- Collect demographic and ecological data on howler monkeys
- Estimate current howler monkey population size in the reserve and compare to previous estimates
- Identify and map trees the howlers are utilizing for food and rest
- Update howler monkey educational display for the nature center
- Record any observations of capuchin monkeys in the reserve

What you'll learn:

- Standard methods and experimental design for monkey surveys
- Geographic data collection and processing using GPS and GIS
- Data organization, management and analysis

What we seek: Knowledge or experience in wildlife ecology, or interested and willing to learn; willing to hike long distances in rugged conditions and conduct field work, often in hot weather; knowledge of Excel; organized and attention to detail.