
Climbing in the rain!

Posted by Carolyn - 11/16/2006 01:51pm

I refuse to let all this Pacific Northwest rain ruin my time in my cedar tree. So as a new climber, I am asking for any extra advice or precautions for climbing in the rain such as, DRT vs SRT and if SRT, which ascenders & descenders work best for a wet rope. I presently use the CMI and ID for climbing SRT. I wouldn't go up in a downpour, but there is something cozy about being among the evergreen branches during a light rain.

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Posted by moss - 11/16/2006 07:02pm

Ascenders (CMI) and descenders (ID) are designed to work well on wet ropes. DRT will work fine too. You can't count on your feet helping you on branches or the trunk. Sometimes it's a challenge keeping your hands dry and warm depending on what the air temperature is. Spread your gear out in a dry place after you climb (you probably already knew that).

Have fun!

-moss

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Brrr- cold rain and arm pits.

Posted by Treeman - 11/16/2006 08:28pm

I like summer rain climbs when it is warm. Colder rains tend to squeeze water off the ropes as you descend, often sending the cold water into your arm pits.

Have a set of dry clothes ready for you after your climb. A jug of hot beverage is good during and after a climb as well. Watch out for hyperthermia. Gortex is better than a shell that condenses moisture from the inside.

Climb only with the rope. Wet trees turn to slime surfaces when wet. Save branch walking for dry days or climb with a second anchor point to move laterally.

I am glad there are other climbers willing to brave the elements. It is always interesting seeing weather from a tree's point of view.

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Posted by Sitka - 11/17/2006 03:22am

for climbing in the rain, you probably picked the best tree on the planet. northwest cedars are nature's umbrellas! and with all this crazy rain we've been getting, cedars are looking pretty choice for rec climbs. one thing to always remember is to dry out your gear after a day of wet-weather climbing. water will make your gloves, helmet, ropes and harness funky fast, so hang it all up to dry overnight in a warm, dry place.

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