
Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by alpinepronghorn - 09/27/2007 03:19pm

Check out this cool little vid on Nau's website about climbing champion trees in Washington's Olympics:

https://www.nau.com/homepage/index.jsp#/thecollective/ascending_the_giants&6

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by rmbnxs - 09/27/2007 05:00pm

Cool video. I'm from WA and I've visited that big cedar before. It's a helluva tree, and a kick in the pants to climb, I bet.

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by moss - 09/28/2007 09:53am

Nicely done video. The desire to climb champion trees is exactly what old-growth researchers are worried about from rec climbers. I'm hoping that rec climbers will go out and find their own trees to climb rather than go after the known champs. If you subtract the "peak bagging" mentality (well known in mountaineering), the low impact climbing philosophy expressed in the video was a good message. There are so many interesting trees to climb without trying to get into a champ.

-moss

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by ponderosa - 09/28/2007 10:39am

Moss, my thoughts exactly. That was the first thing that got my attention in the video: "You want to climb the champion trees." Rec climbers often avoid the champ trees as a sign of respect and care. To me also, this is what separates the true rec climber from the thrill seeking, extreme sport, me-first climber whose focus is on themselves. I like to think that with the true rec climber the focus is on the experience, the tree, the forest, and his/her relationship with them. Unfortunately, as the sport grows, these sorts of distinctions may become anachronistic. I put a few personal thoughts about what "recreational" tree climbing means on my website.
<http://www.treeclimbingcolorado.com/about.html#FAQ%27s>

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by rmbnxs - 09/28/2007 05:35pm

I should make it clear that although I think the video is cool, I'm not condoning bagging champion trees. They broke the "rules" to make the video, but it is a cool video. And they shouldn't do it again.

This raises an obvious issue. Many climbers want to see their pastime grow, yet they oppose the inevitable effects of that growth. Me, I'm perfectly happy keeping the pastime small and obscure. I've been to Joshua Tree when it's crawling with rock climbers. I'd just cry if I saw the same thing in the woods. I don't believe the pastime can grow without also diluting the prevalent climbing ethos. This is just what humans do. Trust me, I've worked with them. ;)

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by moss - 09/28/2007 06:51pm

rmbnxs wrote:

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"rules" to make the video, but it is a cool video. And they shouldn't do it again.

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I'm counting on the fact that rec tree climbing is an activity that requires skill development over time, at least 3 hours to complete an average climb and massive amounts of patience on the ground and in the tree. That immediately rules out a large chunk of the population. Because of these intrinsic qualities I believe tree climbing will never be "the next big thing". There is nothing sexy about from-the-ground tree climbing (as opposed to facilitated zipline activities) from a marketing point of view, I'm hoping this will save it from exploitation and too rapid growth. Slow growth is a good thing, we actually have a chance to cultivate an eco-centric ethical stance going forward.

-moss

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by oldtimer - 10/01/2007 01:09pm

I see that this is a interesting video production by a Team of Adventurers with good intentions. For some reason I do not see anywhere that they were "breaking" any laws. I assume they got the proper permits and have the needed training since climbing these big trees is not for the new climber that goes into a store and decides to climbing something. They appear to have the proper gear, appear to be confident of their procedures and appeared to be using proper safety rules. So, I think that sometimes we are hasty to judge others for their imagination and willingness for adventure. They look to me like Arborists trained people that do this type of activity on a regular (daily maybe) basis. Just because we do not know them or they are not associated to one of the groups that we are associated with does not grant us power to judge and criticize them. We should stay away from criticism without knowing the whole story behind it. How long they planed this, where the live and work, why are they doing this. The final message sounds very appropriate to foment the understanding of trees and contribute to their protection by the general Public (paraphrasing)...:cheer:

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by moss - 10/01/2007 01:42pm

The only thing I object to is targeting champion trees for rec climbs. Everything else about the video is fine, they have a great message about trees in general.

-moss

Re:Cool Tree Climbing Video

Posted by rmbnxs - 10/01/2007 04:47pm

oldtimer wrote:

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Hey Desi. The only "rule" I think they broke is, as Andrew said, targeting champion trees. They could have made the same video with another impressive tree and avoided selling the idea that bagging champions is cool. Other than that I liked the video.

And, once again, I'm homesick.

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