Using the *"Authority of the Resource Technique"*

4 Steps to Changing User Behavior:

1) Make an announced approach with an introduction and ice-breaking conversation.

2) Provide an objective/non-judgmental description of the observed undesirable behavior.

3) Shift focus to the resource and reveal the implications of the behavior on the resource and/or visitor experience.

4) Describe the desired behavior, and model/demonstrate that behavior if possible.

Suggested Practices:

- Eliminate or reduce distractions
- Refer to shared values & norms with user group
- Be conscious of being a role model
- Model desirable behaviors yourself
- Use passive voice to avoid sounding aggressive
- Routinely remove evidence of prior impacts
- Consider common undesirable behaviors in your area

Discussion Ideas for Outdoor Leaders:

- What are the natural resources of the Catskills that are most threatened by human interference?

- Why is the Authority of the Resource Technique a valuable tool in the arsenal of outdoor leaders?

- When is the Authority of the Resource Technique not a good fit for changing user behavior?

- Try role playing! Try to change a user's behavior using the Authority of the Resource Technique.

Common Undesirable Behaviors in the Catskills:

- Camping and campfires above 3500 feet
- Unleashed dogs
- Traction devices in mud
- Disrupting endangered plants/animals
- Trampling sensitive plants
- **Can you think of any more?**