

AHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1980

Launched HikaNation

- Successfully completed first 3,000 miles
- Gained widespread publicity
- Established rapport with local communities and trail groups
- Surpassed expectations
- Met objectives

Expanded Volunteer Conservation Corps

- Organized 5 work groups with 84 volunteers in 4 states
- Contributed 3,400 hours of trails work

Established strong Washington presence

Improved organization

- Consolidated administrative activities under one roof
- Upgraded member service
- Reduced response time to correspondence
- Improved coordination among administrative activities
- Reduced member complaints to almost zero

Moved office to larger quarters with improved facilities and management services

Merged with the International Backpackers' Association (IBA)

Put Wilderness Bookstore under one roof with full time management

Initiated H.R. 8087: The National Trails System Act Amendments of 1980

- Drafted legislative language
- Obtained introduction in Congress and passage by House (twice)
- Organized grass roots support in every state
- Missed full passage by inches
- Made arrangements for reintroduction in 1981

Submitted Congressional testimony

- For Ice Age National Scenic Trail (passed)
- For National Hostel System Plan (died in Senate)

Established high-level contact with Federal agencies

Improved contacts with other trail clubs

- Underscored importance of AHS to their interests
- Gained enormous support throughout U.S. on trails bill

Improved visibility of AHS with general public/land managers/other interest groups

Assisted on U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, "National Trails System Planning Effort"

Attended regional workshops

Provided weekly input on assessment of trail needs and recommendations

Coordinated work plan for assessment with regional offices

Reviewed regional recommendations

Helped write and edit 100-page draft report on assessment for review and comment by trails community

Assisted in formulation of 1981-84 HCRS trails work plan

Assisted in follow through with Federal agencies to obtain reports on progress toward meeting 1980 trail program goals

Reported Federal agency progress to Council on Environmental Quality

Extended Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreement with HCRS to June 1, 1981

Established a Trail Information Service to answer requests from membership

Compiled Trail Information Packets for every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Developed guidelines and procedures for establishing local AHS Groups

Published a supplement to update Volunteer "Vacactions" on America's Public Lands

Published 10 newsletters in 12 months--the most we have ever put out in one year

Held a successful Hike-In for the second consecutive year

Established an AHS committee structure and appointed chairmen

Assisted in establishment of two trail clubs

Texas Trails Association

Benton MacKaye Trail Association

Improved international contact and rapport

Hosted a panel discussion on International Footpath Protection Laws with European trail club official in House Interior Committee Hearing Room

Attended European Ramblers' Association meeting in Luxembourg

Developed a proposal to improve cooperation and communication among trail clubs in the U.S. and Europe

Elected new officers

Welcomed four new leaders to the AHS Board