

7/20/2021

Dear Elkhorn Endurance Runners,

The Elkhorn Endurance Runs are just around corner and we want to brief you on a few important items. First and foremost, please check for further correspondence from us the week of the race in the event we need to provide critical information on wildfires, smoke or other factors. Otherwise, no news is good news!

- 1. Smoke, air quality and heat.** As if the race isn't tough enough already! How about we add a little heat and smoke? Like many places, Montana is experiencing smoke from wildfires here and throughout the West and Canada. Fortunately, there are no wildfires burning in the Elkhorn Mountains at this time. You can expect to see smoke during your race. At this time, air quality is reported as unhealthy for sensitive groups. Temperatures are in the high 80's this week.
- 2. Refund and Rollover Dates.** You have through July 23 to receive a 30% refund on your entry fee or request that we rollover your entry to next year. No refunds or rollovers after this date.
- 3. Course changes.** Earlier this year we announced our decision to run the southern section of the 50M and 50K races first, then the northern section. This decision remains in effect and will help ensure runners are out of the most remote sections of the course before dark. In addition, we shortened the 15M to 13 miles. You can view the new race course maps on the HURL website: hurlelkhorn.com
- 4. Cutoff times.** The aid station cutoff times have been adjusted to reflect the new course. Please refer to the HURL website: hurlelkhorn.com
- 5. Personal responsibility for safety.** Race organizers do their best to plan a safe event. This includes the presence of the local search and rescue team, ham radio club, and medical services on standby. The Elkhorn Runs take place in rugged, remote terrain where cell phone coverage is limited to nonexistent. We mark the trails prior to the race but cannot guarantee that elk or humans won't disturb the markers before race day. The weather is unpredictable at best. It is common for conditions to range from warm and sunny, to hot, to cold, to rainy or even snowy all in the same day! Bottom line, it is your responsibility to race prepared. We will not be checking race kits but we expect you to have the means for carrying water and sufficient warm clothing and gear on your person or in your pack. Do not underestimate the toughness of this race, the remote conditions, or the weather extremes you might encounter.
- 6. Start/Finish Area parking.** Parking spaces are very limited at the Start/Finish (Willard Creek trailhead). Please be mindful of using only the space you need to safely park and to only park in places devoid of vegetation due to fire danger. Vehicles parked in a manner that restricts traffic flow will be removed – it is a serious safety issue if our emergency personnel are unable to travel the road in and out of Willard Creek.

- 7. Trail status.** The volunteers who cleared trails this year deserve everyone's gratitude. Paul LaVigne and his trail crew encountered an unprecedented amount of downfall this summer due to high wind events in the area. The Forest Service stepped up too to make sure that the trails are in good shape. There is always the potential for more trees to fall before race day but hopefully not too many!
- 8. Friday check-in and packet pick-up.** Remember to check in on Friday at the Montana City Volunteer Fire Department, Station 1 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. (1192 Highway 282 in Montana City). Course briefings take place at 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6:15 p.m. The 13 mile course briefing will take place on race morning at 7:30 a.m. at the start/finish area.
- 9. Drop Bags (50M only).** We are adjusting the drop bag options to reflect the course changes. We will have updated information for you at the Friday packet pick-up.
- 10. Have fun!** While much of this update has been about important precautions for your safety, the Elkhorn Endurance Runs have a solid reputation for being tough but 'old school fun'!. We've been doing this for a long time now and we often receive compliments about the event. We can assure some level of suffering will occur, but for some reason people keep coming back with a smile on their face! We hope you will be one of those. 😊

Sincerely,

Race Director, John Hallsten

and the rest of Elkhorn Endurance Race Committee