

July 28, 2021

Dear Elkhorn Endurance Run Participants,

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce the cancellation of the 2021 Elkhorn Endurance Run due to the high likelihood of hazardous air quality and extreme fire danger. The smoke from wildfires burning throughout Montana and much of the West has increased significantly over the past week and degraded air quality poses a serious health concern to runners and volunteers alike.

Many of our race volunteers are seniors who have expressed concern about the conditions. Fire danger is extreme with red flag warnings and fire restrictions in place throughout much of Montana. Crews are battling numerous fires and their resources are spread precariously thin. Many of our aid stations are in remote locations where extraction in the event of a fire would be very difficult. For all these reasons, we find it untenable to continue with the race. We cannot in good conscience ask you or our race volunteers to risk health and safety for the sake of holding this event. We greatly appreciate your understanding of the situation here.

Given the circumstances, we are revising our refund policy. We offer the following options:

- 1) Receive 75% refund of your entry fee; the remainder will be used to cover race expenses we have incurred to date.
- 2) Defer your entry to the 2022 event. Yes, we intend to have it.
- 3) Donate your entry fee to the race. Your donation will allow us to continue supporting other non-profit organizations that donate their time, equipment and expertise to support this race.

To receive a refund or to defer your entry to next year, please send an email to hurlkhorn@gmail.com and indicate your choice. The deadline choose these options is September 15, 2021. If we do not heard from you by then, we'll assume you want to donate your entry fee and provide a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

The Elkhorn Endurance Run is organized by volunteers. No one profits from this unique running experience. Each year the 501(c)(3) Helena Ultra Runners League (HURL) donates a portion of Elkhorn entry fees to volunteer organizations that help with aid stations, race communication, runner safety, and trail work. Without their efforts, the Elkhorn Endurance Run would not exist.

A special thanks to Elkhorn Search and Rescue, Capital City Amateur Radio Club, Capital Trail Vehicle Association, Montana City Volunteer Fire Department, the Prickly Pear Land Trust, the US Forest Service, and all the volunteers who helped clear trails this year.

We look forward to seeing you next year under better conditions.

Sincerely,

John Hallsten, Race Director
Charlie Sperry, HURL VP and Acting President
HURL Board of Directors