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MISSOULA MARATHON ANNOUNCES CHANGE TO 2019 MARATHON CALENDAR
CHANGE MADE TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO RUNNERS DURING FIRE SEASON.

June 11, 2018 – Missoula, Mont. – The Run Wild Missoula Board of Directors and the Missoula Marathon Race Committee, after much review and consideration, have chosen to move the Missoula Marathon to the last Sunday in June. This change will go into effect for the 2019 event, making Marathon weekend June 28th through June 30th (with the Marathon and Half Marathon taking place on Sunday, June 30th).

No change is being made to the 2018 Marathon weekend, still scheduled for July 13th through July 15th, 2018 (with the Marathon and Half Marathon taking place on Sunday, July 15th).

The move from the traditional July date was prompted by the increase, timing and duration of the wildfire season in the Pacific and Inland Northwest. According to Tony Banovich, Missoula Marathon Race Director, “We’re concerned about the trend we’ve seen with earlier and earlier starts to the fire season in the northwest United States. Our location makes us susceptible to wildfire smoke from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, northern Idaho and western Montana. While the configuration of our valley leads to incredible mountain views, it also can result in wildfire smoke being trapped in the valley. As we’ve seen over the last several years, the air quality can degrade to the point of causing outdoor events to be cancelled.”

“Before making this decision, we consulted with local groups such as Destination Missoula, Missoula Downtown Association, Missoula International Airport and Missoula Parks & Recreation. We also reviewed local, regional and national running events from May through July to find a suitable opening on the race calendar” added Banovich. “Our goals were to avoid negative impacts to other events while minimizing the risk of having to cancel the marathon due to health and safety concerns for our participants, and we feel that we were able to meet those objectives.”

The Missoula Marathon typically has over 6,500 registered participants, with over 2,500 of those coming from outside of Montana. The event was named the Best Marathon in 2010 by the readers of Runner’s World; the #1 Ranked Marathon in the U.S. by The BibRave 100 in 2017; and, was listed by Runner’s World as the #1 Bucket List Marathon for 2018.