

Dear 2019 Powder Keg supporter,

I'm writing to you to let you know that we have decided to cancel this year's Powder Keg, due to weather and potentially dangerous trail conditions. Those of you familiar with this event probably know that we don't come to this decision easily --- we've had our share of iffy forecasts and less-than-ideal conditions in the past. However, we've been visiting Lowes Creek and watching our weather apps and just don't foresee enough chance of improvement for any other decision to make sense this year.

We know this is disappointing, and we know you've got questions. Hopefully, we can answer them here:

**Why cancel now rather than waiting to see if conditions change?** Deadlines to order t-shirts, awards, etc. are here. If we put the decision off even just a couple days, those expenses need to be paid for, regardless of whether the race happens or not. By cancelling now, we don't lose money that would otherwise go toward trails and other CORBA initiatives. Plus, we'd need a significant amount of snow to make the trails raceable, and that's nowhere in the long-term forecast.

**Why not postpone instead of cancelling?** The Expo Center venue and some necessary services need to be reserved well in advance, and it would be challenging at this point to come up with an available date that doesn't conflict with other big races, previously scheduled events, event organizers' schedules, etc. There's a lot of moving parts behind the scenes that can't be shuffled at-will. And winter doesn't last forever.

**Why not have a trail run and mountain bike race instead?** If we just had a lack of snow, that's definitely what we would do. If you've visited local parks lately, though, you know that the real problem is ice. The melting and raining and refreezing has left us with long ribbons of glare ice in place of trails. Even with studded tires or shoe spikes, we're finding that conditions are difficult even for casual riding/hiking, much less racing. Holding any trail race with these conditions poses dangers to you that we're not willing to risk. Period.

**What about my entry fees?** Like most races, we make it clear up front that entry fees are typically non-refundable. Events incur expenses long before race day that need to be covered even in the case of cancellation. However, in this case, through how we plan things and by making the call early enough, we are able to offer a couple of options to those who have already registered:

OPTION 1: You may allow your entry fees to be donated to CORBA. The Powder Keg is one of CORBA's annual fundraisers. Cancelling this event leaves a significant hole in the budget. By donating your entry fees, you're providing funds that can be used for local trail maintenance, community events, volunteer insurance, etc. If you want to support CORBA in this way, there's no need for you to do anything. Your donation will be put into the general fund. Thank you! **In appreciation, we will give you 50% off of your entry fees for next year's Powder Keg.**

OPTION 2: You can request a refund, minus registration fees charged by RunReg (typically \$2-3 or so). If you would like a refund, send an email to [jrauckman@gmail.com](mailto:jrauckman@gmail.com) **no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>**. In your email, include the name of the person(s) registered and the event(s) in which they were signed up for. Any entry fees not requested by 1/15/19 will be donated to CORBA, as per above.

**Will the Powder Keg be back?** We're not the biggest race, and we're not the fanciest race, but we think we've got a pretty good thing going on and truly enjoy hosting this great group of fat bikers and snowshoers. We appreciate your support and look forward to returning in 2020. On behalf of ourselves and the CORBA Board, thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Luke Pederson and Jereme Rauckman