



First, a Bunch of Thank Yous

Thanks for all of your support over the years and through this on-going crisis. Here at Rainshadow we are fortunate to still have a path forward though it's going to be different than any of us could have ever imagined just a few months ago. We are adapting in a variety of ways to match the new circumstances that we face. Our focus will be, as always, to provide fun races in world class locations while providing the best customer service that we can. But there must be major changes to do this as safely, sustainably and consistently as we can in this uncertain world.

Before I explain all the changes I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth Reese, William Worrell, Jessie McClurg and Ben Perri for all that they have done for Rainshadow, the trail/ultra running community as a whole and for me personally. You could not ask for a better group of people to work with, laugh with, run with, cry with. Jessie and Ben were pretty new to working for Rainshadow, both were hired last year, but you couldn't tell as they fit right into our family, were a joy to have around and were poised to take on larger roles this year. William our official staff "worrier" through his dogged determination oversaw a financial transformation behind the scenes to make a Rainshadow a leaner and more cost efficient organization and on race days was our go to guy to make sure everyone was safe and that everything was going smoothly out on the course and at the aid stations. And as one of my closest friends and someone I've spent many miles with on the trails William also could speak frankly with me and get me back on track when maybe my focus had slipped.

Elizabeth gets her own paragraph. Elizabeth as many of you know was my co-race director and for many of you she was your main contact here whether you were a runner, volunteer, sponsor or permit grantor. Elizabeth was Rainshadow for the past few years. Initially hired to manage The Trail Running Film Festival she wasn't even initially going to work on race related stuff but it was quickly apparent we needed her help with the races as well as the film fest. And then a few months later when we suddenly lost two key staff members she took over their responsibilities and basically kept the ship afloat through a tough transition. Then she lead our organization as we repaired our public image, revised our policies and the general feel to be more friendly, welcoming and authentic than ever before while simultaneously making us more organized and capable. Also thanks to Elizabeth we also had the help of her husband Joel and her dad Rob who both gave countless hours to support the races and always brightened our days.

I urge you all to reach out to Elizabeth, William, Jessie and Ben and stay in touch with them and support them with their future endeavors. I expect each of them to go forward and do many good things. I will forever be grateful for all that they've done for me and the Rainshadow community.



A New Way Forward

With the combination of COVID and our staff changes I've sought ways to still honor the commitment to the runners already registered for our races as well as honoring the spirit of Rainshadow and all of you that are a part of the greater Rainshadow family. What has resulted is a new operating model for Rainshadow for at least the short term and possibly beyond.

This is what we are planning to do:

- All 2020 races will be canceled **except** Secret Beach 100k/50m in October and Deception Pass 25k in December. There will not be a Deception Pass 50k option.
- All runners in one of the 2020 races that will be canceled (Yakima 50k/25k, Sun Mountain 50m/50k/25k, Millersylvania 50k/30k/10k, John Capps 50k, White River 50m, Beacon Rock 25k, Waldo 100k and Oregon Coast 50k/20m) will have multiple options to choose from on how they would like to proceed including rolling over to next year, credit towards another race and more. We will be emailing each of the runners registered for these races soon with more details and the process to follow.

- Going forward we will be operating races on a much smaller scale(meaning less runners per race/day) and in a more "bare bones", "old-school" manner that will put more of the onus on the runner to be self sufficient. This will allow us to operate more safely and sustainably while meeting COVID era restrictions and guidelines while still offering fun races and beautiful courses. Some of you will like the changes and some of you might not. More details coming soon.
- For those interested we will be providing you with a variety of ways to support us. We'll have some fun new events including at least one virtual race this summer, group runs through our running club, a new merchandise partnership with Territory Run Co. and multiple new shows from [The Trail Running Film Festival](#) which I co-direct so when you buy a ticket you're helping me out! More details coming soon.
- Other race related changes: We're gonna take a year off from directing the Orcas Island 100(but we do plan to bring it back in 2022). Also Waldo 100k will no longer be directed by Rainshadow, it's now directed by Elizabeth Reese for the non-profit organization Waldo Ultras. And we will not be offering 50k options at Beacon Rock and Deception Pass going forward. Stay tuned for the announcement of our 2021 race calendar.
- Expect changes to our policies, procedures, and communications to account for and prepare everyone for the new way we'll be operating our business in general and specifically how we'll operate our races and other events and how we will all have to adapt to physical distancing and other measures to limit the spread of the virus as well as ways we'll need to be prepared for future economic and social disruptions. Things will be vastly different in some major ways but we will stay true to our goals of providing safe and fun events and the best customer service as we can.
- Our goal as always is to treat each and every runner, volunteer, crew/family member, spectator, staff member, vendor, land manager and member of the general public with care, compassion and respect. And we hope each person we have at our races and interact with can treat each other and anyone else they come in contact with with care, compassion and respect. Discrimination or harassment or hatred will not be tolerated and if myself or anyone associated with our events or participating in our events in any way(running, volunteering, spectating, etc.) has done or does something to hurt or offend you or anyone please let me know immediately at james@rainshadowrunning.com

Thanks Again & I'll be in Touch Soon

This is a tough time for all of us. I feel bad for all of you that had been hoping to run one of the races we have canceled. I really wanted things to work out differently.

I hope everyone is taking care of themselves, their friends, families and neighbors as best they can under these circumstances. I know if we stick together we will get through this. If nothing else I hope you all know that I love you and that I believe in you. Thank you again for your support and I'll be in touch again soon with more info and exciting new opportunities for you!

James

[Rainshadow Running](#)