Pacific Northwest Region

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Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region to withdraw, reissue Flat Country Project Record of Decision

PORTLAND, Ore. -- The Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service is withdrawing a Willamette National Forest January 2021 Record of Decision for the Flat Country Project on the McKenzie River Ranger District.

The decision is being withdrawn after a regional review by agency experts determined that the project warranted reconsideration. The withdrawal comes in the midst of a <u>convening of an expert panel</u> to provide the Forest Service advice and recommendations on the Northwest Forest Plan to promote sustainable, climate-adapted, wildfire-resilient landscapes; though a reissued Flat Country Record of Decision is expected before the Northwest Forest Plan Area Advisory Committee concludes its work.

The withdrawal of this decision will be followed by development and reissuance of a new decision for the Flat Country project, currently planned for early Spring 2023.

"The Flat Country project is important for forest health and to support jobs and economic development in the region's rural communities. The appropriate way to advance the important goals of the Flat Country project is to reissue a new Record of Decision early next year and allow the project's consensus portions to move forward and start delivering wood to local mills in short order," said Glenn Casamassa, regional forester for the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region.