

Today is _____, _____ the _____. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about _____ when we return

CCA Sues Over Endangered Status of Gray Wolves in California

On Jan. 31, CCA and the California Farm Bureau Federation filed a lawsuit challenging the California Fish and Game Commission's June 2014 decision to list the gray wolf as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act, a decision which formally took effect on January 1, 2017. The organizations are represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation, a nationwide leader in litigation aimed at ensuring limited government, private property rights and sensible environmental protections.

The suit alleges that endangered listing of the gray wolf under the California Endangered Species Act was improper for three reasons. First, the subspecies of gray wolves present in California originate from Canada and are not native to the state, as the law requires. Secondly, the Commission focused too narrowly on wolves in California, ignoring their robust and healthy population throughout their range in the western United States. Lastly, the Commission impermissibly listed the species based on what was, at the time, only occasional presence in the state by a single wolf.

"The Fish and Game Commission took a big bite out of its own credibility with this unjustified listing," said Damien Schiff, PLF Principal Attorney. "The agency managed to label the gray wolf as 'endangered' only by myopically and illegally ignoring its population outside California."

Endangered status for gray wolves could have a significant impact upon ranchers whose livestock fall prey to the apex predators and to the local rural economies that are dependent upon agriculture.

CCA president and Butte County cattleman Dave Daley said the lawsuit is necessary for ranchers to ensure the humane treatment of their livestock. "Under California law, you can't even pursue a species that is listed as endangered," Daley said. "If a rancher sees a wolf attacking one of his or her calves, he or she can't chase the wolf away without breaking the law. Ranchers are not seeking open season on wolves, we just want sensible wolf management that also allows us to protect our livestock. That will require delisting the gray wolf."

The case is *California Cattlemen's Association, et. al. v. California Fish and Game Commission*, filed today in the Superior Court of California for the County of San Diego. For more information visit [here](#) or call Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.

National Ag News Audio for February 13, 2017

Bilateral farm trade got high-profile attention in the US Senate, as the Donald Trump administration continued to talk up the need for doing one-on-one deals with nations in Asia and elsewhere.

Agriculture is 'at the table'...and proved it again recently, when influential Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe took to the Senate floor to urge bilateral trade deals with Japan and Taiwan—deals that bring down Japan's high beef tariffs and end Taiwan's ban on US pork treated with meat-leanness additive, ractopamine...tape

Cut #1 :20 OC:...“trade barriers.”

Inhofe is co-chair of the Senate Taiwan Caucus and chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which recently voted out President Trump's EPA nominee Scott Pruitt.

FMD Concerns Growing in South Korea

South Korea last week raised the nation's foot-and-mouth disease alert status to its highest level, as a second strain of the disease was confirmed at a dairy farm. South Korea also announced plans to vaccinate all cattle in the nation against FMD. The first confirmed FMD case in South Korea in more than a year was confirmed last week, and two other FMD confirmations followed, prompting the alert status and vaccination announcement. South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, last raised the country's foot-and-mouth disease alert status to the highest level in 2010 when the country grappled with its worst-ever FMD outbreak, according to Reuters.