

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

Wolf Management Legislation Clears House

Audio with Robyn Smith, Communications Director, Oregon Cattlemen's' Association

The House of Representatives recently passed legislation removing the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. The legislation, which passed primarily along party lines, would also open wolves up to state hunting and trapping seasons.

Robyn Smith, Communications Director with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, says they were very excited when the legislation cleared the House...tape

Cut #1 :12 OC..."the state"

Wolf management has been an ongoing struggle, especially in the west, where gray wolf populations have increased rapidly in recent years. Smith notes HB 6784 gives ranchers and local governments more control when it comes to wolf management...tape

Cut #2 :22 OC..."greater basis"

HB 6784 now heads to the Senate, where it will face more opposition. Similar pieces of legislation have cleared the House just to die in the Senate.

CDC Issues Warning About Romaine Lettuce Consumption

The Center for Disease Control issued an unusually strong alert for consumers to avoid eating romaine lettuce. The warning also included retailers and restaurants not selling or serving it. The reason is an E. coli outbreak in the U.S. and Canada that's sickened at least 32 people. No deaths have been attributed to the outbreak. Politico notes the CDC action says officials have pinned the cause of the outbreak on romaine lettuce. However, the action doesn't pinpoint the region where the outbreak began. Federal health officials don't normally take this kind of action until they have more specific information on the source of the outbreak. Officials are stepping up their efforts to prevent future illnesses. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb (GOT-leeb) says his agency believes the source of the outbreak likely is California. He also said the industry needs to improve its tracking system in order to find the source when problems arise. "Our first mandate is to protect public health," Gottlieb says, "all while we fully recognize that this will cause extreme hardship for growers and consumers." Major produce industry groups say they're following the FDA direction to pull the product.