

## Public Lands – Land for all the People! Celebrate the beauty of the Columbia Highlands



*Moose calf twins by James Johnston*

The recent armed takeover of Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was a shocking reminder that we conservationists and lovers of nature need to get involved in the management of our Public Lands. A rise in legislative proposals across the country are part of a broader conspiracy to privatize our federal public lands led by extremist militants, influential politicians and powerful special-interest funded by the billionaire Koch Brothers and whose hidden agenda is to drill, develop and denude our National Parks, National Forests and Wildlife Refuges.

But you can help stop this from happening by getting involved. By going the website [www.protectpubliclands.com](http://www.protectpubliclands.com) you can join in support of a campaign and the millions of Americans who hike, camp, ski, hunt, fish, climb, watch wildlife, or otherwise love their public lands to urge elected leaders to reject all attempts to give away, sell, transfer or otherwise abuse our nation's public lands heritage.

Watch the film "[Protect Your Lands](#)" and contrast the profit-making motivation of corporations behind the anti-public lands agenda and the real threats to our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other public lands face in Congress, and yes, even in rural NE Washington. County commissioners in Okanogan, Ferry Stevens and Pend Oreille County have jumped on the privatization bandwagon led by the American Lands Council – a front group for the Koch Brothers and lead organization in the effort to turnover Federal lands to the states. If that were to happen, counties would lose millions of dollars in jobs associated with management of the Colville, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests, loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual payments to counties and taxpayers would bear the costs of firefighting that in just the last two years were in the tens of millions of dollars.

Polls consistently showing strong public support for protecting and maintaining national public lands ([Colorado College](#)) and data demonstrating the enormous economic value of public lands in the form of \$646 billion in consumer spending and 6.1 million direct jobs nationwide ([Outdoor Industry Association](#)).