John Muir Land Trust’s next major acquisition project is Carr Ranch, a truly stunning property owned for more than 100 years by the Carr family. It exemplifies the cultural legacy of California ranches and the families that have taken care of them.

**GEOGRAPHY**

Carr Ranch is located in central Contra Costa at the southern boundary of Lamorinda (Lafayette, Moraga, & Orinda), adjacent to Alameda County. The property features over 600 acres of stunning ridgelines, unique rock formations, gorgeous valleys and sweeping views of the eastern Bay Area, delta and surrounding hills. (See map on reverse side for the general vicinity.)

**DRINKING WATER**

The past four years in California have been the driest on record in 80 years, and perhaps the last 400. Ongoing drought, climate change and population growth pose significant threats to Bay Area water supplies. Situated in the Upper San Leandro watershed adjacent to the Upper San Leandro Reservoir, JMLT acquisition of Carr Ranch provides a one-time opportunity to permanently protect high quality Bay Area drinking water at its source.

**WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Carr Ranch is home to an exceptional diversity of foliage including coastal live oak woodlands, riparian woodlands, coastal scrub and annual grasslands. Nearly all of the property is critical habitat for the threatened Alameda whipsnake. Likewise, Buckhorn Creek and numerous ponds on the property provide breeding and foraging habitat for the endangered California red-legged frog. Carr Ranch is also home to golden eagle, mountain lion, American badger, western pond turtle and many other species essential to our ecosystem.

**RECREATION**

As East Bay congestion continues to become more pervasive, public access to open space becomes increasingly important. Once acquired, Carr Ranch will be opened to the public, providing an unparalleled source of recreation for surrounding communities. Much like our existing Fernandez Ranch property, JMLT’s Carr Ranch will offer myriad opportunities for hiking, cycling, birding and equestrian activities.

**NEXT STEPS**

As we have articulated in launching the Saving Contra Costa campaign, our goal is to raise $25 million and more than double the acreage protected by JMLT. While we quietly began the SCC campaign with West Hills Farm, the proposed Carr Ranch acquisition represents the first major step towards achieving our campaign objective. The total project budget for Carr Ranch is $7 million and we hope to close escrow on this vital property in June 2016. Please help!