

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Carr Ranch



Carr Ranch photos: Adam Weitenbach

John Muir Land Trust acquisition of **West Hills Farm**, near the John Muir National Historic Site is imminent! The next major project on our agenda is **Carr Ranch**, a truly stunning property owned for nearly 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's acquisition of Carr Ranch provides a **onetime 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!