



**THE NATURAL HABITAT** on the Sky Ranch, Dutra Ranch and Gustin properties consists of mixed oak woodland, annual and perennial native grasslands, live oak/bay laurel woodland and coastal scrub. The properties hosts four kinds of oak trees—blue oak, coast live oak, valley oak and California black oak. The many native wildflowers include poppies, lupines, yarrow, monkeyflower and Mt. Diablo sunflowers. This area embraces the upper reaches of Alhambra and Rodeo Creeks, supporting many reptiles and amphibians, such as the California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake, both threatened species. Many large and small mammals, songbirds and raptors thrive here, as well as other threatened, endangered and special status animal species, including the Golden eagle and Cooper’s hawk. These lands are traversed by the Bay Area Ridge Trail, adding protection to an important segment of its 500 miles.

**THE MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST (MHLT)** purchased the 242-acre Sky Ranch in 1997, the 80-acre Gustin Ranch in 2002 and the 158-acre Dutra Ranch in 2004. Previously, this land had been under threat of development and the purchase of these lands by MHLT ensured that it would be permanently protected and forever remain as it looks today.

**MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST** is a community-based non-profit organization that acquires, restores, and permanently protects open space and wildlife habitat in Contra Costa County. It also provides hiking, wildlife-viewing, and environmental education opportunities to the community on our protected lands. Since 1988, MHLT has preserved nearly 2,000 acres through acquisition and conservation easements. We welcome hikers, bikers and equestrians to enjoy the natural beauty of Dutra Ranch, Sky Ranch and Gustin. If you would like to join us for one of our guided hikes, please contact us at 925-228-5460 or [info@muirheritagelandtrust.org](mailto:info@muirheritagelandtrust.org).

## DIRECTIONS

### *From Highway 4 eastbound*

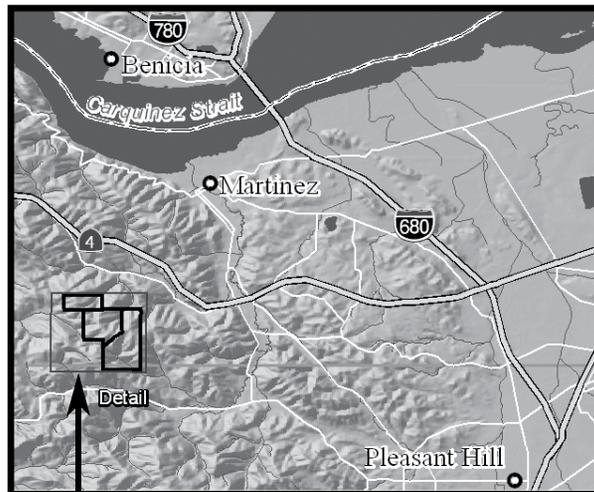
- Exit Alhambra Ave.
- Turn right onto Alhambra Avenue
- Make your first right onto Franklin Canyon Road

### *From Highway 4 westbound*

- Exit Alhambra Ave.
- Turn left onto Alhambra Avenue
- Turn right onto Franklin Canyon Road

### *Then...*

- Continue on Franklin Canyon for one mile
- Turn left onto Dutra Road
- The trailhead, marked “Contra Costa County Feeder Trail #1” is on the left about one-tenth mile up the road. Watch for the yellow “END” sign on the left just before the stables.
- Park on the left side before the trailhead and stables. There is room for about three cars here.
- The feeder trail leads up about one mile to the gate at the entrance of the Sky Ranch property. There is a kiosk here with signs and a map.



**MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST**  
Sky Ranch, Dutra Ranch & Gustin Properties



# *Dutra Ranch, Sky Ranch & Gustin Properties*

## TRAIL GUIDE

**MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST**  
*works to ensure a lasting quality of life for future generations by preserving and stewarding open space and fostering environmental awareness.*

## FEEDER TRAIL TO SKY RANCH KIOSK

Distance: 2 miles roundtrip Elevation gain: 700 ft.

**Directions from Dutra Rd:** Take the Feeder Trail uphill 1 mile until you reach the first gate and **Sky Ranch Kiosk**. From here you have the option of taking the Dutra Loop Trail (1.5 miles), the Tina Batt Trail (3 miles) or returning down the Feeder Trail (1 mile).

**You will see:** During the first mile of this hike, along the Feeder Trail, you will see many native plants such as Sticky Monkeyflower, Coyote Mint and Poison Oak as the trail traverses Franklin Creek under large Bay Laurel trees leading up to the top of the ridge.

## DUTRA LOOP FROM SKY RANCH KIOSK

Distance: 2.5 miles roundtrip Elevation gain: 325 ft.

**Directions from the Sky Ranch Kiosk:** Continue .5 mile up the hill to the Donor Plaque and bench, a great spot for a rest and a nice view. From here the Dutra Loop Trail continues west—head right as the road forks next to the plaque. Keep to the right at each junction and this will lead you downhill to the historic Dutra family ranch site. Here you will find a nice picnic area, interpretive signs and great views. Continue on the lower road through the canyon, which emerges at the Sky Ranch gate and kiosk. From here you can return down the Feeder Trail (1 mile).

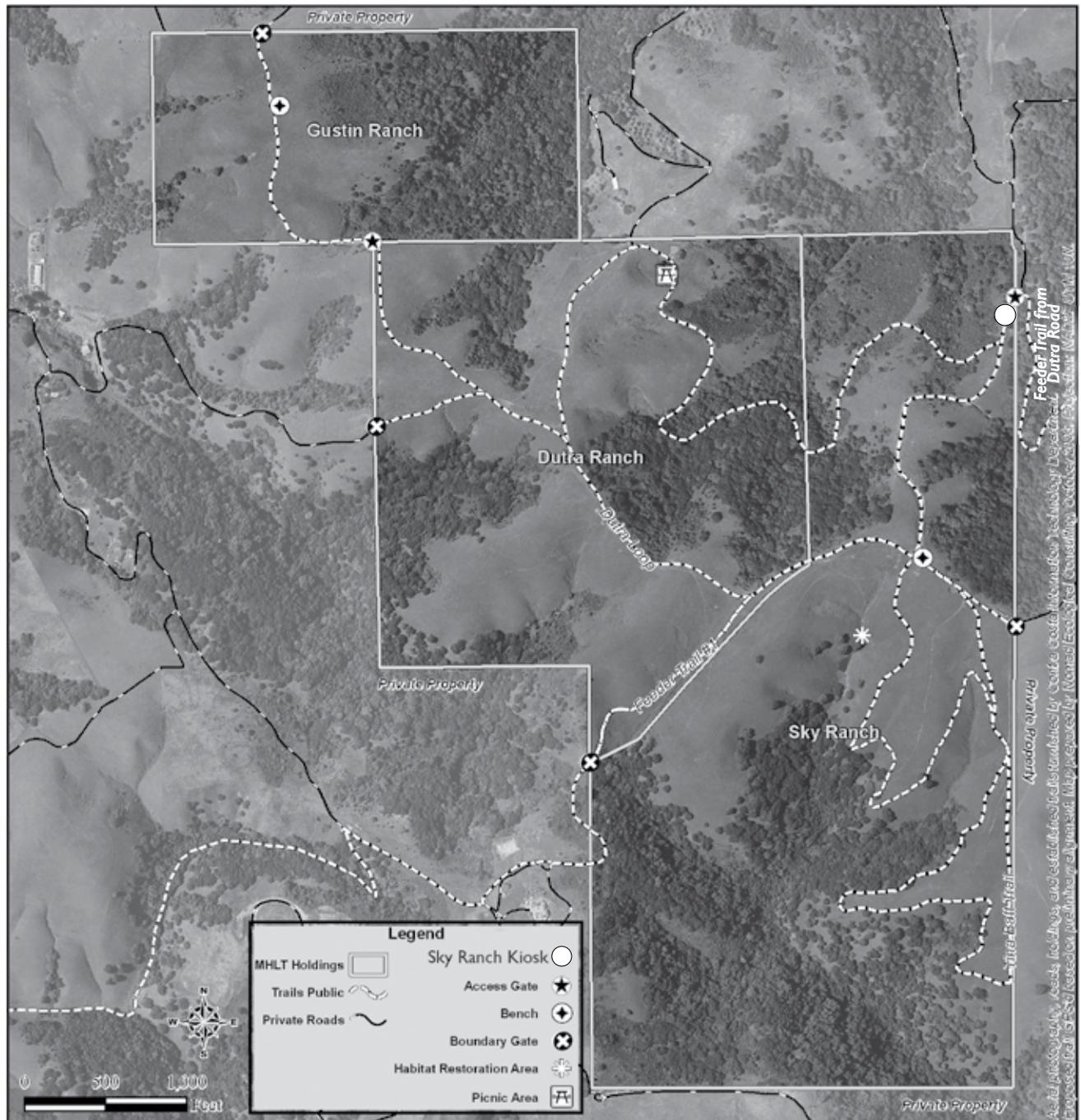
**You will see:** As you climb in elevation, you will see rolling grassland hills, heritage oak trees and beautiful views of Mount Diablo, Contra Costa and the Carquinez Strait. The Dutra family ranch site and the interpretive sign along this trail provide a glimpse into the history of this land and how it was used by the Dutra's in the late 1800's. The trail continues through the densely wooded canyon of Coast Live Oaks and Bay Laurel trees among ferns and mosses in the shade on the canyon floor.

## TINA BATT TRAIL FROM SKY RANCH KIOSK

Distance: 3 miles roundtrip Elevation gain: minimal

**Directions from the Sky Ranch Kiosk:** Continue .5 mile up the hill to Donor Plaque and bench, a great spot for a rest and a nice view. From the Donor Plaque, head south to the left of the fencing and shed. The loop trail brings you back to the Donor Plaque and bench after 2 miles of winding through grasslands and under oaks. From here you can continue on the Dutra Loop trail (straight in front of you, another 3 miles back to the start of the Feeder Trail) or head back down the hill on the Feeder Trail (1.5 miles).

**You will see:** As you climb in elevation, you will see rolling grassland hills, heritage oak trees and beautiful views of Mount Diablo, Contra Costa and the Carquinez Strait.



P.O. Box 2452 Martinez CA 94553  
925-228-5460 Email: [info@muirheritagelandtrust.org](mailto:info@muirheritagelandtrust.org)  
[www.muirheritagelandtrust.org](http://www.muirheritagelandtrust.org)