Silent Straws:
Understanding water demands and economic tradeoffs of woody encroachment in California’s oak woodlands

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Project funding provided by the UCANR Competitive Grants Program
Conifer encroachment in North Coast deciduous oak woodlands
Dates of tree establishment

*From Tools for a Changing Landscape, a previous UCANR Competitive Grants-funded project
Effects of conifer encroachment

- Fuels accumulations
- Loss of herbaceous biodiversity and forage
- Oak mortality
What about water demands?
Silent Straws – project goals

- **Goal 1**: Quantify effect of conifer removal on soil moisture and water availability
- **Goal 2**: Assess economic tradeoffs of managing for conifers versus oak woodlands/rangelands, including spillover benefits identified through previous research and in Goal 1
- **Goal 3**: Use air photos (1948 & 2016) to develop a detailed map of encroachment over time and to scale up economic analysis
- **Goal 4**: Extend results to landowners and land managers