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Stem data from first three censuses on the University of California Santa Cruz Forest Ecology Research Plot

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Abstract

Here we present stem-based data from the first three censuses of the 16-ha UC Santa Cruz Forest Ecology Research Plot, located in the Mediterranean climate forest of coastal central California, USA. The forest includes both mixed evergreen forest and redwood-dominated forest, and is recovering from significant logging disturbance in the early 20th century. Each woody stem with diameter larger than 1 cm has been mapped, tagged, identified, and measured, with censuses on a ~5-year interval. The first census (FERP1) began in 2007, and included just 6 ha. During FERP2, begun in 2011, the plot was expanded to 16 ha. The FERP3 census was begun in 2017. The community includes 34 woody species, including 4 gymnosperm and 9 angiosperm tree species, 18 species of shrubs, and 3 species of lianas. Across the three censuses, we report identity, size, location, and mortality data from 48,556 stems of 31,206 mapped individuals.

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