





Figure 2. Coastal breezes sculpt trees along the trail. Photo: Marin Municipal Water District

## Ridgecrest Boulevard continued

also notice invading natives such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* ssp. *consanguinea*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*); years of fire suppression and lack of grazing have allowed these woody plants to increase (Fig. 3), converting coastal prairie to coastal scrub and conifer forest. In some areas, the woody species are being cut back to ensure the grasslands and all the plants and animals that depend on them have room to thrive.



Figure 3. The march of the Douglas-fir: left, 1984; right, 2014. Photos: Marin County