

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 15, Rincon Mountains

Arizona College Prep Academy, December 12th and 17th, 2019



On December 12th and 17th we brought two different groups of high school students from Arizona College Prep Academy to plot #15 just south of the Broadway Trailhead. We had a great time searching for saguaros with these energetic students. We measured 384 saguaros in total, an impressive feat considering that we had only about 2 hours to survey each day once the students were trained up. This plot is drastically different from its original state in 1990. Back then there were 198 saguaros. During the resurvey in 2010, we documented 417. So we have a loss over the last decade, but we are still almost double the 1990 count. The most notable finding from this year's survey, is the dramatic decrease amongst the smallest group of saguaros, those under 1 meter tall. We can attribute some of that to saguaro growth (meaning saguaros are moving up to the next height class), but we believe that the hard freeze experienced in 2011 likely accounts for the overall loss.

Saguaro Plot #15

