

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 19, Rincon Mountains

Individual Volunteers, December 28th, 2019



On December 28th, we gathered up an energetic group of volunteers, braved the cold weather and completed the second half of Plot #19 out in the Cactus Forest. This plot is covered with Christmas cholla and prickly pear and the group managed to stay relatively spine free, even finding small saguaros amongst the cholla.

This plot has been surveyed only three times. The first survey, in 1990, counted 282 saguaros. In 2010, there were 454 saguaros documented and the total count for this survey was 448. The plot has seen dramatic increases since 1990 and has remained relatively even, in terms of total numbers, over the last decade. As with other plots, we see a decrease in the number of saguaros documented in the smallest height class, but this can be addressed by saguaros growing and graduating to the next height class up. Some of the highlights of this plot include the two 1-centimeter saguaros found (fun fact: a 1-cm saguaro is approximately 4 years old) and many nice “families” of saguaros clustered together under trees.

Saguaro Plot #19

