

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 19, Rincon Mountains

Sky Island Alliance, December 7th, 2019



On December 7th, we brought out a tough group of volunteers organized by Sky Island Alliance. The weather was great and we had a nice hike out to Plot #19 in the Cactus Forest. Despite our limited time, we managed to complete half the plot, measuring over 200 saguaros.

We completed this plot on December 28th, with staff and individual volunteers.

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

