

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 28, Tucson Mountains

NPS Staff, Next Gens, and Volunteers, January 3rd, 2020



On January 3rd, we had a strong group of NPS Staff, Next Generation Rangers, and park Volunteers join us to continue the survey of Plot 28, near the Visitor Center of the west district. Again, we had a wonderfully crisp winter day and the group was enthusiastic. When the day was done, the group had surveyed about another 1/3 of the plot and counted more than 200 saguaros. It took a total of 3 days with two other groups (Cactus Rangers, and the Western National Park Association) for the plot to be completed.

In total, we measured more saguaros on this plot this year than we ever have, at a whopping 539, including 33 under 10 cm! This a huge change from the original survey in 1990 which counted 393. We can see that there were more saguaros in the under 1m category in 2010, but we can account for the decrease this year by looking at the next height classes up which show increases. Our saguaros are growing!

Saguaro Plot #28

