

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 35, Tucson Mountains

Individual Volunteers, January 4th, 2020



We had a large group of individual Census volunteers out on Saturday, January 4th to survey plot 35 in the Tucson Mountains. Thanks to a great effort, we finished the plot! It was a cool but beautiful day. Plot 35 is not far from the road, but requires crawling under a fence and then braving a very large number of spiny cholla cactus. Everyone worked very hard and did really well, including some visitors from the eastern states.

Compared to plots to the east, this area has few young saguaros, but we did find some – the smallest was only 3 centimeters tall!

We counted a total of 401 saguaros on this plot. This is less than observed in 2010 at 416, but more than the 194 found in 1990 and the 388 documented in 2006. As we have seen on many plots surveyed so far, we see the largest change in the smallest height class, where numbers have almost halved what was observed in 2010. Unlike other plots, we did not see an increase in the next height class up (the 1-2m height class), but see an increase in the height classes above 2m. So we can say that our saguaros are growing, but we are not seeing much recruitment on this plot.

Saguaro Plot #35

