

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 37, Plot 40, Tucson Mountains

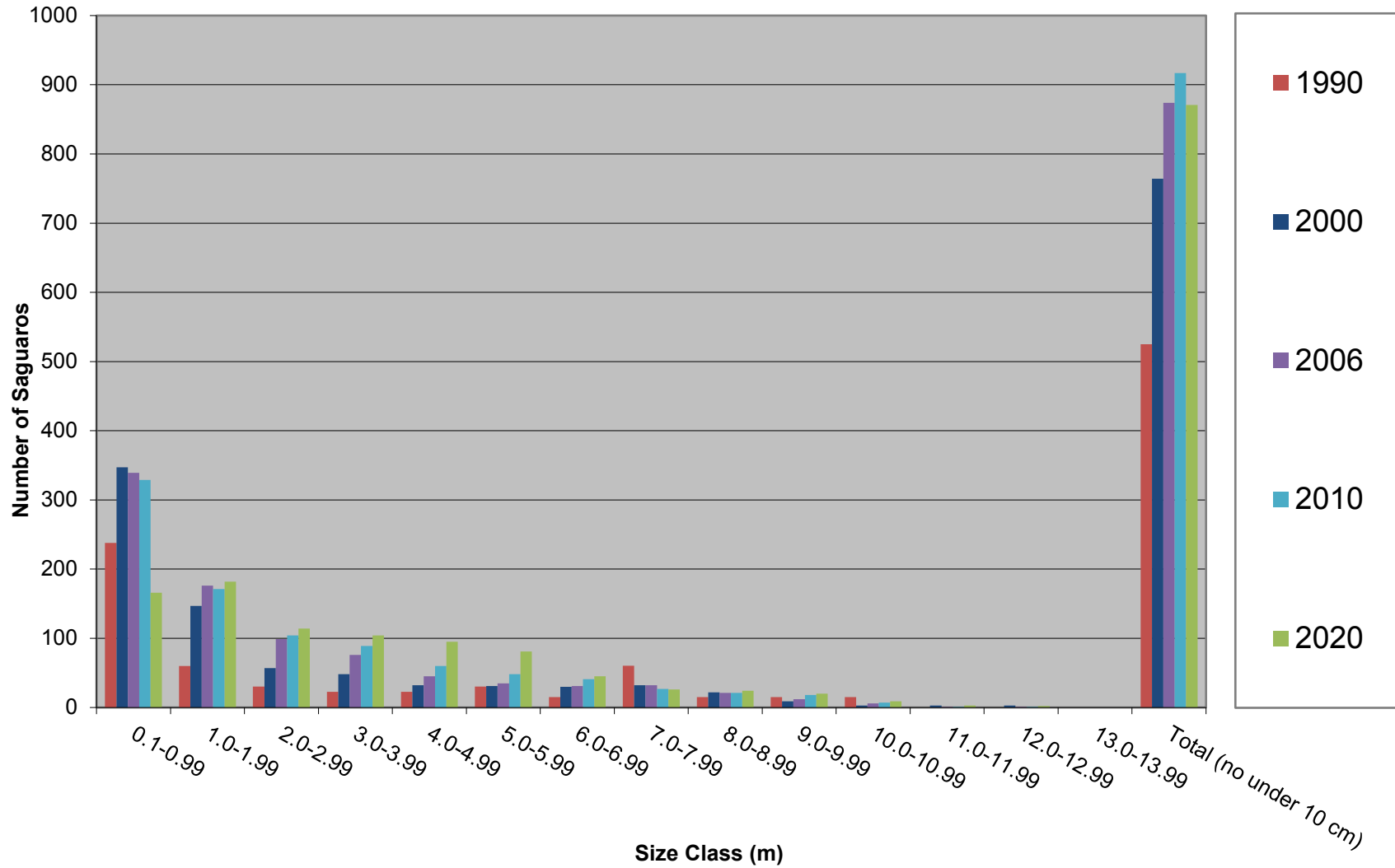
Saguaro National Park Trail Crew, November 20th



The Saguaro Trail crew teamed up with us to finish work on two plots (Plot 37 and Plot 40) at TMD on November 20th. The weather threatened to ruin our plans, but the crew persevered and counted over 500 saguaros across the two plots. It was great day of interdivisional fieldwork.

Plot 37: A total of 880 saguaros were measured. This is a decline from the 921 counted in 2010, but more than the 1990, 2000, and 2006 counts. Those were 525, 764, and 874 respectively. The biggest observed was the number of saguaros in our under 1 meter tall almost halved from 2010 to 2019. We can assume that a large number of those saguaros out grew that height class, but we suspect that a number of those small ones died. There were a couple positive trends on this plot. We saw an increase in flowering stems from 955 in 2010 to 1266 this year. And most exciting, we found 9 saguaros under 10 centimeters tall compared to the 4 located in 2010.

Saguaro Plot #37



Plot 40: This plot has seen increases in the number of saguaros since the first survey in 1990 until 2010. In 1990, there were 424, in 2000, there was 529, and in 2010, there was 608. This year we saw the number of saguaros decline to 585. Compared to the 2010 data, we see that a large number of saguaros that were previously under 1 meter graduate to the next height class. The same can be observed for the saguaros that were in the 1-2 meter height class graduating to the 2-3 meter height class. Our saguaros are growing up! In addition to seeing the smaller saguaros grow, we saw an increase in the number of flowering stems. In 2010 we counted 528 and this year we counted 572.

Saguaro Plot #40

