

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

Board Members of Friends of Saguaro National Park, November 16, 2019



On November 16<sup>th</sup>, an energetic group composed of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Saguaro National Park (and their families and friends) joined us to re-survey Plot 40, near the Visitor Center of the west district. The weather was beautiful and the group was very ambitious, collecting data on more than 400 saguaros and completing more than half the plot.

This plot is covered with spiny pencil cholla and Christmas cholla, which we had to navigate around, but also some beautiful large saguaros. We did find a few small ones hidden beneath the nurse trees. This plot was also surveyed by the Friends in 2000. We are grateful for this wonderful organization – without the Friend's generous support, the 2020 Census would not be possible.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, we brought out our Trail Crew to and finish this plot.

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

