

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 5, Rincon Mountains

UA Biodiversity Class, February 15th, 2020



The spring semester Bio/Diversity class from University of Arizona surveyed most of plot 5 on February 15th (the plot was completed soon after by park interns).

Plot 5 has seen an overall increase of about 50 saguaros since it was first surveyed in 1990, but a decrease during the past two decades. Unfortunately, we don't seem to be finding many young saguaros (less than 20 years old) in this part of the park. The long-term data suggest that survival of young saguaros in this area, called the "Cactus Forest", is more episodic and occurs less regularly than some other areas of the park. Perhaps the soils do not hold as much moisture. We've been in a long-term drought and have not seen many young ones coming into the population since the mid-1990s, and lost a number of large ones following a big freeze in 2011.

Saguaro Plot #5

