



Balmorhea State Park

# COMANCHE SPRINGS PUPFISH

*Cyprinodon elegans*



TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

One of the only places in the world where you can find this endangered fish is at Balmorhea State Park!



## COMANCHE SPRINGS PUPFISH *Cyprinodon elegans*

The Comanche Springs Pupfish grows to be about 2 inches in length and lives 1-2 years.

The males have a bright, shiny stripe on the side to help attract females. They spawn and lay eggs year-round.

These tiny fish are adapted to living in the desert and completely rely on flowing desert springs. They can withstand a wide range of temperatures and salinities of water. They eat mostly algae and small invertebrates.

Because of increased drilling and pumping of underground water, the springs in which the pupfish live are drying up! Supporting Balmorhea State Park is important because it's one of the few places where these fish can be protected and continue to have habitat in which they thrive.

The canal and San Solomon Cienega are the best places to spot the Comanche Springs Pupfish in Balmorhea State Park. You can swim with these little fish in the spring fed pool that maintains a constant temperature of 72-76 degrees.