



PECOS PUFFFISH

The Pecos Pufffish is a native species of conservation concern in New Mexico and is found in the Pecos River drainage south from Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lake State Park near Roswell to the Texas border. Pecos pupfish are small fish rarely exceeding 60 mm. They can be found in streams, wetlands and gypsum sinkholes, it is most commonly found in habitats having elevated salinity, sometimes saltier than the ocean! Spawning occurs during summer months. Males aggressively defend breeding territories. The species decline is attributed to groundwater depletion and hybridization with sheepshead minnow.