

SAN SOLOMON SPRINGS COLLABORATIVE

THE SAN SOLOMON SPRINGS COLLABORATIVE BRINGS TOGETHER RESEARCHERS, LANDOWNERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, NONPROFITS AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS FOR A FOCUSED AND LOCALLY DRIVEN EFFORT TO SUSTAIN THE SPRINGS THAT FEED BALMORHEA.

The San Solomon Springs Collaborative is a research and community outreach project housed at the new Meadows Research Institute for West Texas Water at Sul Ross State University. This project was created to provide support for local groundwater conservation districts, landowners, and community partners with science, research and educational programming.

Premise: Roughly 30 percent of the springs in Texas have disappeared. Among those that remain, The San Solomon Spring is one of six distinct springs located near Balmorhea in southwestern Reeves County. For decades researchers from public, private and academic sectors have studied the origins and behavior of these desert springs.

Phantom Spring, located at a higher elevation than San Solomon Spring, has already stopped flowing. Meanwhile, San Solomon's discharge has declined from about 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the 1950s to about 20 cfs (current).

Scientists agree that the springs are generally in decline and increasingly vulnerable. Groundwater sampling shows how water moves toward Balmorhea from the Apache and Davis Mountains, but many questions remain: What are the sources of this water? Where does it recharge and reside underground—and how long can it sustain the springs we see today?

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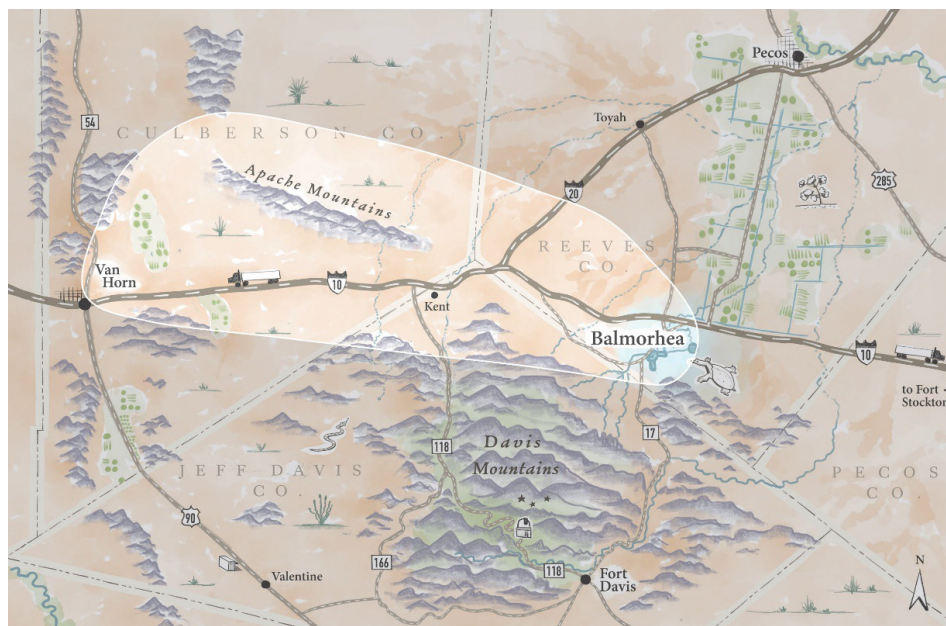


In 2025 gatherings were hosted and many local conversations led to identify the following goals for the collaborative. We aim to build on past research as we deepen our understanding of these springs. This is only the beginning.

OUR GOALS

- **TO ADVANCE** data-driven science about groundwater related to the springs, by involving landowners in groundwater data collection.
- **TO BUILD** relationships and a shared conservation effort that engages landowners from the contributing springshed upstream of the springs, alongside the community in Balmorhea, the Balmorhea State Park, and farmers who depend on healthy flow.
- **TO CREATE** inspiring science-based outreach and educational initiatives designed to connect local audiences and visitors with the springs, and to build champions for sustainable flow.

THE SAN SOLOMON SPRINGS GROUNDWATER RESEARCH STUDY AREA



HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES



WATER IN THE TEXAS DESERT

The Story of the San Solomon Springs System – A virtual story map.

[VISIT SITE](#)



WATER IN THE DESERT 2026

February 11-13, 2026
Alpine TX

A Conference about Water in the Chihuahuan Desert Region of Texas.

[VISIT SITE](#)



MEADOWS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR WEST TEXAS WATER

Coming to Sul Ross State University

[VISIT SITE](#)

TO LEARN MORE AND PARTICIPATE CONTACT

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