



LOWER CANYONS OF THE RIO GRANDE A NATURALIST-GUIDED FLOAT TRIP AND FIELD SEMINAR

August 18-25, 1979

September 29-October 6, 1979

November 10-17, 1979

8 days, 7 nights, \$475 per person

Minimum 8, Maximum 12 Participants

Traverse a ribbon oasis through the spectacular Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande with experienced Naturalist-Guides. Participants will learn, at an introductory college level, the geology, ecology, and human history of the region. This reach of the Rio Grande is the wilderness heart of the newly designated addition of our Wild and Scenic River System. Three hours of Continuing Education credit can be awarded through Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Leaders: Dr. Dwight Deal, Geologist, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute Director of Education and past Research Program Manager for a 4-year study of the natural history of the Lower Canyons by the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, another CDRI Naturalist with expertise in at least one of the following fields: ornithology, zoology, or botany, will co-lead the trip. The second leader may vary from trip to trip.

Seminar participants will make a leisurely float trip down an 84-mile reach of the Rio Grande through 2,000-foot deep canyons downstream from Big Bend National Park. We will put into the river across from La Linda, Coahuila, and take out south of Dryden, Texas. All boats, river gear, food, and shuttle service will be provided. Some days will be spent hiking and observing the natural history adjacent to the river. Participants will have the opportunity to assist scientists in ongoing field studies.

Although participants will have to make their own arrangements to get to and return from Dryden, Texas, we will assist in vehicle sharing and can arrange for shuttles from public transport. Alpine, Texas is serviced by Amtrak (from Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, Tucson, and Los Angeles), Continental Trailways, and Taos Bus lines (connecting with Midland Air Terminal). Participants will need to provide:

sleeping bag, foam pad or air mattress, plate, fork, spoon, knife, cup, sunshade (hat), sneakers, 2 changes of clothes and any other similar personal items noted on the final equipment list. Be prepared for cool (possibly below freezing) nights and warm (over 90° F) days.

The registration fee of \$475 must be paid in advance. A \$75 deposit will reserve a space and the balance will be due one month prior to the trip. The registration fee or deposit will be refunded in the event the seminar is cancelled or if all 12 spaces are already filled. CDRI members will be given preference.

The CDRI also runs shorter Naturalist-guided field seminars, which include river, bus, and hiking expeditions. University Continuing Education credits are awarded as appropriate. We also put special programs together for large or small groups. Ask Dwight Deal if you have special interest or needs.