General Observations

All eleven nominees were found to possess exceptional environmental settings. With the exception of East Hawksbill Creek, all nominees' are Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Class I or Class II wild trout streams and satisfy the criterion of possessing an exceptional aquatic community. East Hawksbill Creek is unclassified by DGIF but is considered a native brook trout fishery and is listed as open for harvest by the National Park Service. All eleven water bodies provide exceptional recreational opportunities such as hiking, backcountry backpacking and camping, fishing, bird and wildlife watching, and photography. Motorized access to all streams is prohibited. Nominated segment boundary descriptions, accessibility, particularly outstanding features, and representative photos for each stream segment are provided in the following section.

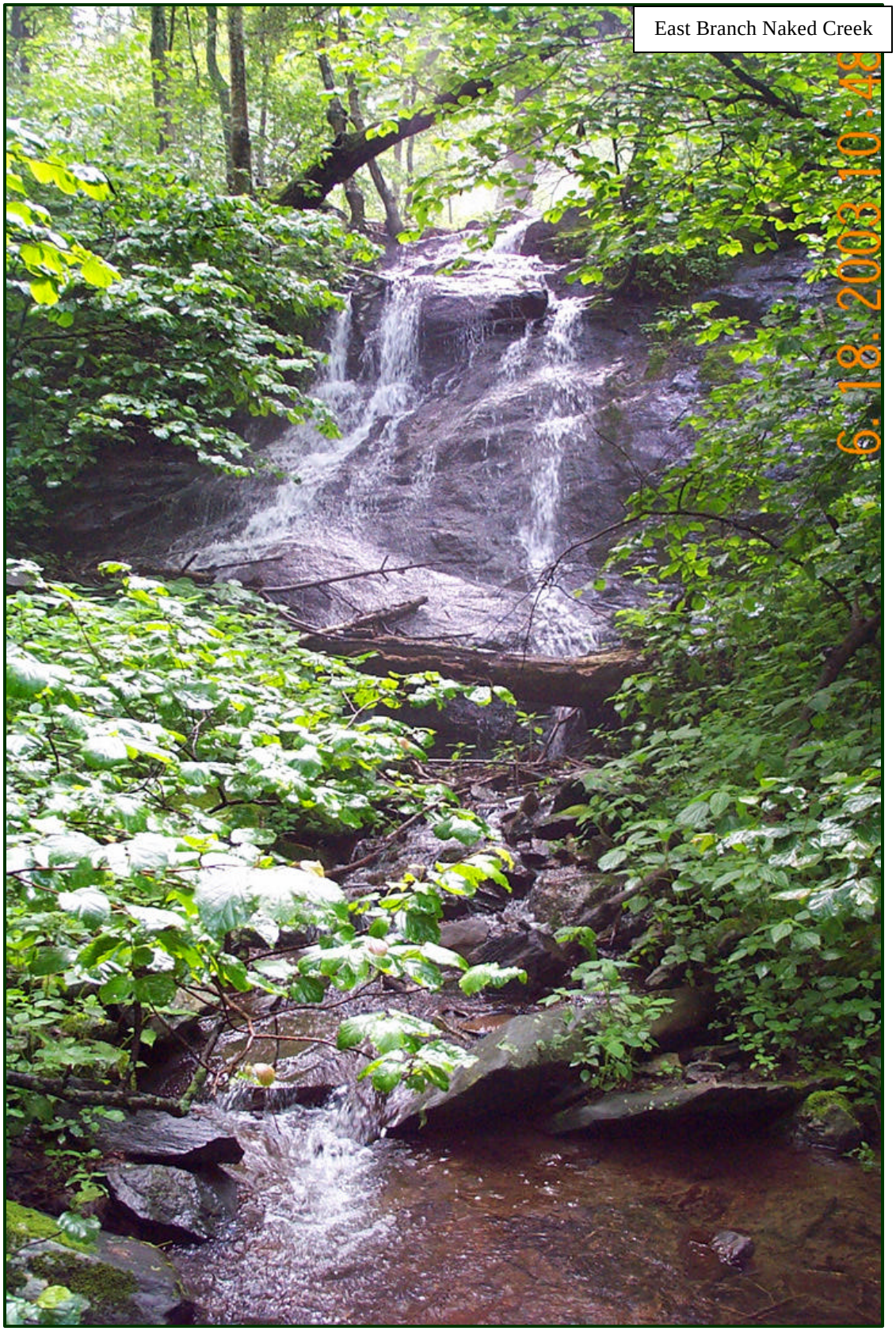
East Branch Naked Creek

Boundary Description

The East Branch Naked Creek in Page County from its headwaters downstream to the Shenandoah National Park boundary and all tributaries to this segment of the East Branch Naked Creek within the confines of Shenandoah National Park.

East Branch Naked Creek has no trail associated with it. A Skyline Drive overlook is located near the headwaters but cross-country "bushwhacking" is necessary to access the stream. A detailed map of the area is highly recommended. There is no access at the downstream boundary of the nominated section. The terrain of the upper portion near the headwaters is extremely rugged but the environs surrounding the stream are truly exceptional. The stream has, as is the case with most of these mountainside streams, numerous small waterfalls. A cursory benthic survey was done and stoneflies and caddisflies were observed in the headwaters. Mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and brook trout were observed farther downstream.

East Branch Naked Creek



East Branch Naked Creek