General Observations

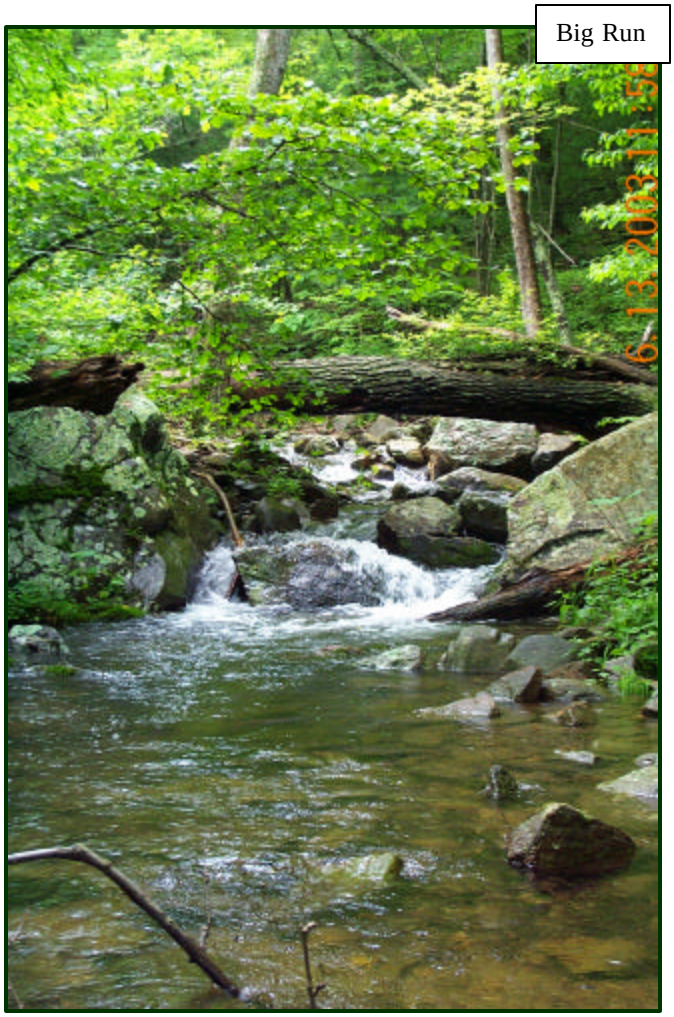
All eleven nominees were found to possess exceptional environmental settings. With the exception of East Hawksbill Creek, all nominees' are Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Class I or Class II wild trout streams and satisfy the criterion of possessing an exceptional aquatic community. East 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.

Big Run

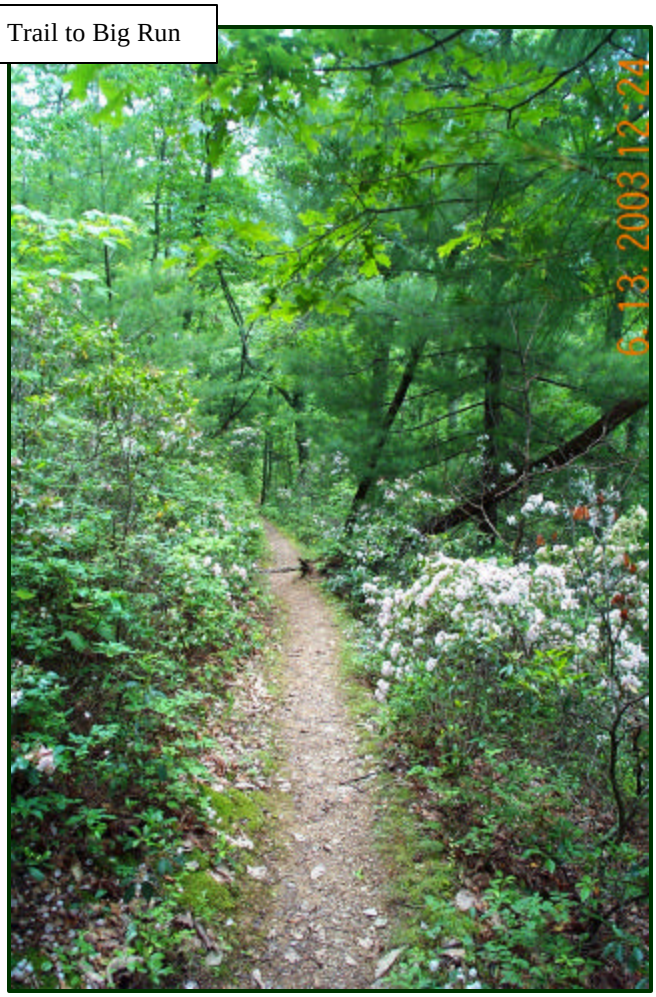
Boundary Description
Big Run in Rockingham County from its headwaters downstream to the first crossing with the Shenandoah National Park boundary and all tributaries to this segment of Big Run within the confines of Shenandoah National Park.

Big Run is accessible by park service trail from the top at Skyline Drive. There is no access from the downstream end due to private property. A cursory benthic survey was done and stoneflies, caddisflies, and mayflies were observed.

Big Run



Trail to Big Run



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