

Meet the Executive Sub-Committee Members

**David Whitehurst,
Chair**



David has 37 years of experience with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and 39 years of experience as a fish and wildlife biologist. He is currently Director of the Department's Bureau of Wildlife Resources.

David currently serves as Chairman of the Management Board for the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, a 13-state cooperative effort to advance bird conservation in this portion of the Country and is a member of the Refuge Partners Team for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Paul Johansen, Vice-
Chair**



Paul is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with more than 29 years of service to the citizens of West Virginia. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Johansen has held various positions within the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, including Wildlife Manager at R.D. Bailey Lake Wildlife Management Area, Assistant District Biologist in Fairmont, and Wildlife Planner at the Elkins Operations Center.

Mr. Johansen currently serves as Assistant Chief in Charge of Game Management, where he is responsible for administering the statewide game management program, including District wildlife management operations and statewide wildlife research projects. He is honored to work with some of the finest wildlife professionals in the country and to serve some of the most dedicated hunters and other wildlife-associated recreationalists in the nation.

Gwen Brewer



Gwen has worked as Science Program Manager in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service for the past nine years. Previously, she was an Associate Professor at Frostburg State University, where she worked for 11 years teaching courses in ornithology, ecology, and conservation biology as well as advising graduate students. In her current position, she leads a group of staff involved in inventory, monitoring, research, restoration, conservation planning, and conservation actions for rare and nongame species and natural communities.

Gwen has done research on birds in Maryland, Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Chile, and has published her work on bird behavior and ecology in scientific journal articles and in species accounts in several books.

Rodney Bartgis



Rodney Bartgis has worked as a biologist for the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, with an emphasis on rare species inventory, management, and conservation. He has worked for The Nature Conservancy since 1994, initially with an emphasis on land conservation.

He became the Conservancy's West Virginia state director in 2003 and oversees the state program's conservation, fundraising, and government relations functions. He has been extensively involved in the development of the Conservancy's ecoregional assessments of the Central Appalachians, its Appalachian landscape resiliency and connectivity analysis, and development of its North America forest restoration and energy strategies.

Clyde Thompson



Clyde Thompson has over 30 years of service with the U.S. Forest Service. Clyde currently serves as the Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest. Prior to moving to the Monongahela National Forest in 2002, Clyde held numerous leadership positions including district ranger, deputy forest supervisor, and forest supervisor for both eastern and western forests. Prior to taking the line officer path in 1990, Clyde completed staff work in the fire, timber, and logging systems arenas. He also currently serves on the Regional Budget Team for the Eastern Region

Given his diverse leadership and natural resource management experience, Clyde has developed a vision of forest management that entwines his views of public service with land stewardship, sustainability, and building and maintaining quality partnerships. Clyde has worked closely with numerous partners across West Virginia including West Virginia University, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Friends of the Blackwater, Trout Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini



Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini is the Deputy Regional Director of the National Parks Services, National Capital Region. As the Deputy Regional Director for over five years, Mendelson-Ielmini oversees the management of the National Capital Regional staff, including natural and cultural resources and 15 Superintendents who manage some of the nation's oldest federal parks, including the White House grounds, the National Mall & Memorial Parks, and other National Park Service-managed property in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Mendelson-Ielmini holds a B.A. degree in Business Management from Washington College in Chestertown, MD, and a Master's degree in Land Use and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. She is a certified member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.