

## DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (PA)



Amanda has had a deep love and connection to public lands since she was very young. She grew up visiting state and national parks and forests with her family and developed a deep admiration for the natural world within these preserved lands. Amanda's interest in the natural world led her to pursue a career as a researcher in the field of conservation biology. She graduated from Unity College earning a B.S. in biology with an environmentally based curriculum. A highlight of her studies was her field experience in the great Maine wilderness. After earning her degree, Amanda pursued her interest in field research, getting involved in mapping the spread of invasive species and conducting public education to help prevent their spread. Along the way, she found herself taking a job she never expected - and loving it. She landed at Pocono Environmental

Education Center, nestled inside Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Starting out as a volunteer, she quickly found her way into an instructor position. She found great joy in sharing her love of nature with kids of all ages and decided to pursue a job as an interpretive ranger at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. From there, Amanda continued her career with the National Park Service, working seasonally at Boston National Historic Park and Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and volunteering at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The CVA position brought her, fittingly, back to her start with the National Park Service. It seems appropriate that she continues to extend her enjoyment of public lands to people of all backgrounds through the gift of volunteerism.