Joe Schell grew up outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Living in a suburban environment his whole life, he took any opportunity he could to be outside. He pursued a degree in Zoology from Delaware Valley University and took very strongly to his conservation biology coursework. He studied the eastern small-footed bat’s distribution in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. While in the park he worked closely with NPS staff. In speaking with NPS staff and seeing the beautiful park they protected, he decided he wanted to pursue a career in the National Park Service. When the opportunity to help develop volunteer programs for Assateague Island National Seashore presented itself, he jumped onboard!