

Executive Biography

Jon Goldin-Dubois President



Jon Goldin-Dubois understands the challenge of climate change but isn't discouraged by the scale of the work to be done to address the climate crisis in the Interior West. His deep connection to the natural world, particularly the mountains, rivers, and deserts of the West, drives his desire to find and present opportunities to rebuild our economies and societies in harmony with the environment.

Upon joining Western Resource Advocates (WRA) in 2014 as president, Goldin-Dubois set about getting the team to scale around its seven-state region and ensuring that WRA has the resources needed to influence states to decrease carbon emissions; connect and protect critical landscapes; and ensure healthy river systems. Together with his leadership team, he has built a skilled and passionate staff of 70 with the resources necessary to identify the many threats posed to the region by climate change and to implement effective and proven strategies to address those challenges through enduring solutions.

Goldin-Dubois' three-decade career has revolved around advocating for changes that make our communities better. His background ranges from fundraising and campaign strategy to leadership and policy development to grassroots organizing, across a variety of industries, including environmental issues, youth development, and government accountability.

A Colorado native, Goldin-Dubois is driven by his passion to improve the world that future generations will inherit. He grew up skiing, but really came to love the outdoors when he started backpacking with friends in Colorado's mountains. It was the 1989 Exxon-Valdez oil spill that spurred him to action and ignited his passion for preserving and protecting land and the natural environment.

Throughout his tenure at WRA, Goldin-Dubois has tackled the urgent climate crisis head-on. He and the team he has built have made great strides on the issue by ensuring resources are trained squarely on creating a healthier and more equitable future for the West. Under his leadership, the organization has increased its effectiveness across the region. The WRA team has more staff in more states and is driving plans that address climate change with an urgency and ambition commensurate with the scale of the crisis the region faces. The organization has seen a record increase in funding – revenue has tripled during his tenure – fueling the expansion of the team and resulting in an exponential increase in impact across the Interior West.

Goldin-Dubois has been at the center of successful negotiations with utility executives to decommission coal-fired power plants and replace the energy with clean, renewable power. One example is the Colorado Energy Plan, which was approved in 2018 and put the state's largest utility on a path to cut carbon emissions by over 50%.

Additionally, WRA has helped to negotiate agreements to protect the West's rivers and ensure they can continue to support healthy wildlife populations and ecosystems and provide drinking water to our cities and water for the region's agricultural industry. The organization secured stream protections for the San Miguel and Dolores rivers in Southwest Colorado and worked with the City of Aspen to find smart alternatives to secure water supplies and avoid building two proposed dams on Castle and Maroon creeks. Nevada and New Mexico both adopted measures to protect 30% of their lands by 2030.

A father of two, he and his wife Denise, a teacher and instructional coach, live in Denver, Colorado. His daughter works for a Maryland nonprofit organization that supports immigrant families and his son is a student at Lewis & Clark College in Portland. In his free time, Goldin-Dubois enjoys hiking (he recently realized a 30-year goal by hiking the Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango), skiing, cycling, running, and cooking.

Goldin-Dubois holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Denver in International Studies and earned a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Colorado at Denver.