

Maria Gonzales is the Vice President of Development for Protect Our Winters (POW) climate advocacy organization that helps passionate outdoor people protect the places and experiences they love from climate change. In this role, Maria is responsible for leading all fundraising and development activities to advance POW's work and support its operations. As a member of the POW team, Maria is thrilled to align her passion for the outdoors and climate advocacy with her professional work.

Originally from Santa Fe, NM, Maria returned to the Southwest after spending almost a decade in Washington, D.C. Maria's time in D.C. was spent exploring her passion for policy work and expanding her skills in the nonprofit sector. After leading development and social enterprise initiatives at Catholic Charities USA, she transitioned to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). There she worked hand in hand with Multinational Fortune 100 corporations as well as individual donors with deep-rooted interests in the foreign policy arena.

Most recently she served as the Chief Advancement Officer for the American Alpine Club where she led the Club's fundraising department, developed organizational strategy, and expanded the grants program.

Maria holds an M.A. in Political Science, a B.A. in Political Science, and a B.A. in Journalism from Arizona State University. She also has a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University.

Maria regularly volunteers with local non-profits in the Denver metro area. She has served as a board member for WorldDenver since January 2022. She is passionate about supporting the professional development of the next generation of female leaders and has served as a mentor through the Ann Krick Professional Mentoring Program at Camber Outdoors. In her free time, she can be found gardening, camping, rafting, and adventuring with her husband and two rescue dogs, Apollo and Olivia.