KPDRA FOUR-YEAR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM | 2027–2030

Program overview and changes from the 2026 five-year policy

The Four-Year Assistance Program is intended to supersede the previously adopted Five-Year Program. It pays eligible agricultural producers to leave designated acreage unirrigated, with additional compensation for cover crops and approved ecosystem improvement practices. Enrollment and annual payments remain subject to KPDRA Board funding decisions and compliance verification.

Program highlights

Eligible producers must enroll at least 40 acres; each designated parcel must contain at least 25 contiguous irrigable acres. Producers designate the same approved total acreage each year, may rotate eligible parcels, and may enroll any particular parcel in no more than three of the four program years. Designated acreage must receive no applied water during the entire irrigation season (November 1 through October 31), other than natural precipitation. There is no partial-season option. In the event that the number of acres applied for exceed the total available funds, the KPDRA board will impose a cap on the number of acres per producer.

Annual crop payment component	Share of $650 rate	Per acre
Base no-irrigation	40%	$260.00
Cover crop	35%	$227.50
Ecosystem improvement practices	25%	$162.50
Total possible annual crop payment	100%	$650.00
Standing perennial crop (separate category)	60%	$390.00

Application and annual designation

Applications must be RECEIVED by KPDRA by 5 p.m. November 30, 2026; each producer may apply only once. Submit the completed application, evidence of FSA-recognized producer status and eligibility, a signed IRS Form W-9, and required crop-history and assessment certifications. Applications may be emailed to info@klamathwaterbank.com, delivered in person to Parks and Ratliff, PC, 620 Main Street, Klamath Falls, or mailed to KPDRA, PO Box 1944, Klamath Falls, OR 97601. An approved producer must submit each Annual Designation by 5 p.m. on the second Friday of June, identifying parcels, acreage, and requested payment components.

Why the fall application timing matters

The November 2026 application window is intended to support planning for fall-planted cover crops ahead of the 2027 irrigation season. The policy encourages cold-tolerant dryland-established crops such as winter rye, winter triticale, and winter wheat to protect soil and support ecological benefits. Cover crops and ecosystem improvement activities must meet the policy requirements; ecosystem improvement payment is unavailable if the cover crop is harvested or grazed, as defined by the policy, before October 15 of the applicable irrigation season.

Principal changes from the five-year policy

The program period changes from 2026–2030 to 2027–2030, with the application deadline moving to November 30, 2026. The previously Board-determined annual rate is set at $650 per acre. Cover-crop compensation rises from 30% to 35%, while ecosystem-improvement compensation falls from 30% to 25%; the 40% base and 60% perennial percentages remain unchanged. The 2026 partial-season exception is removed, the crop-history documentation window advances to 2024–2026, and the parcel rotation limit becomes three of four years rather than three of five.

Current 5 Year Program Participants

Applicants already participating in the KPDRA Five-Year Assistance Program will be given the opportunity to opt-in to the Four-Year Assistance Program.

Payments depend on annual funding and verification; the summary does not replace the adopted policy.