

KWUA

Klamath Water Users

— ASSOCIATION —

The mission of the organization is to preserve and enhance the viability of irrigated agriculture for our membership in the Klamath Basin, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Deputy Director



The Opportunity

The Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) is seeking an experienced, strategic, and collaborative leader to serve as Deputy Director. Reporting directly to the Executive Director, the Deputy Director serves as a senior leadership position responsible for supporting the overall administration, operations, strategic direction, and external affairs of the Association.

This role functions as the organization's second-in-command and plays a key role in ensuring continuity of leadership, coordination among member districts and stakeholders, and successful advancement of the Association's priorities throughout the Klamath Basin and beyond.

The Deputy Director works closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to help guide organizational strategy, policy development, governmental affairs, member relations, communications, and operational management. This position requires a high degree of professionalism, political awareness, sound judgment, and the ability to effectively navigate complex and often sensitive natural resource and water policy issues.

This is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of irrigated agriculture and water management in one of the most closely watched water basins in the western United States.

Who We Are

KWUA is a non-profit corporation, formed in 1953, that represents irrigation interests associated with the Klamath Project, which is a federal reclamation project. KWUA members include rural and suburban irrigation districts and similar entities that divert or deliver water made available through Project facilities, as well as private individuals who rely on the Klamath Project. The area represented by KWUA members straddles the Oregon-California border and is home to over 1,200 family farms and ranches operating on over 170,000 acres of some of the best farmland in the West. The mission of the organization is to preserve and enhance the viability of irrigated agriculture for our membership in the Klamath Basin, for the benefit of current and future



generations. The Association is governed by an 11-member board of directors who are representatives from Klamath Project member districts.

The Klamath Project was authorized in 1905, as one of the earliest Federal reclamation projects under the Reclamation Act of 1902. It includes facilities that store and divert water from the Klamath and Lost River systems.

KWUA members are parties to permanent contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation that relate to diversion and delivery of water and face uncertainties of supply due to endangered species and other concerns. In addition to providing irrigation, a major aspect of the Project is drainage, including the removal of water from a closed basin. Also, Project irrigation involves considerable recycling and re-use of water, resulting in high efficiencies. Power is furnished for use in the Project by PacifiCorp, an investor-owned utility.

Historically, the major emphasis of the Association has been to ensure reliable water supplies and low-cost power for Project users, and these issues are expected to remain prominent. Ongoing processes in the Klamath Basin are being monitored all over the country. They range from unique legal cases involving water allocation, water quality regulation, and the Endangered Species Act, to policy engagement in Washington, Salem, and Sacramento.

The Role of Deputy Director

As Deputy Director, your primary responsibility will be to assist the Executive Director in leading the organization and implementing the strategic priorities of the Association. The Deputy Director will help oversee organizational operations, coordinate policy and advocacy efforts, support member engagement, and assist in managing relationships with governmental agencies, elected officials, and Basin stakeholders.



This role requires the ability to balance strategic leadership with operational execution while maintaining strong relationships across a wide range of interests and constituencies. The Deputy Director may act on behalf of the Executive Director when necessary and will play a critical role in ensuring effective communication, organizational alignment, and successful implementation of Board direction.

The Deputy Director is expected to serve as a visible representative of the Association and help strengthen KWUA's role as a leading voice for irrigated agriculture and water users in the Klamath Basin.

Your focus will include:

- Supporting overall leadership and management of the Association.
- Assisting with the implementation of Board priorities and strategic initiatives.
- Coordinating governmental affairs, policy engagement, and external relations activities.
- Supporting organizational operations, budgeting, and administrative functions.
- Strengthening communication and collaboration with member districts and stakeholders.
- Assisting with public outreach, media relations, and advocacy efforts.
- Supporting staff coordination, organizational planning, and operational continuity.
- Representing KWUA in meetings, negotiations, and public forums throughout the Basin and beyond.

Key Responsibilities

Organizational Leadership & Operations

- Assist the Executive Director with day-to-day leadership and administration of the Association.
- Support implementation of organizational goals, strategic priorities, and Board direction.
- Help oversee operational planning, workflow coordination, and organizational effectiveness.
- Assist with the development and administration of organizational budgets, contracts, grants, and financial planning activities.
- Support staff coordination, personnel management, and organizational development initiatives.
- Provide leadership continuity and operational oversight in the Executive Director's absence.

Policy, Governmental Affairs, & Advocacy

- Monitor and evaluate legislative, regulatory, and policy developments affecting irrigated agriculture and water users.
- Assist in developing and implementing advocacy strategies at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Coordinate with elected officials, governmental agencies,

industry organizations, and partner entities on matters affecting KWUA members.

- Support development of policy positions, briefing materials, testimony, and official correspondence.
- Represent KWUA at legislative hearings, regulatory proceedings, public meetings, and stakeholder forums.

Member & Stakeholder Relations

- Maintain strong working relationships with member districts, agricultural producers, agencies, tribes, and community stakeholders.
- Support communication and coordination among Basin partners and organizations.
- Assist with public relations, media engagement, and communication strategies on behalf of the Association.
- Coordinate meetings, workshops, and outreach efforts involving member districts and stakeholders.
- Help facilitate collaborative discussions involving complex and sensitive Basin issues.

Strategic Initiatives & Program Oversight

- Assist in coordinating organizational initiatives related to water management, infrastructure, energy, regulatory compliance, and agricultural sustainability.
- Oversee consultants, contractors, and external service providers as assigned.
- Support grant administration, reporting, and strategic funding opportunities.
- Assist with special projects and emerging issues affecting the Association and its membership.
- Ensure organizational activities align with KWUA's mission, priorities, and long-term objectives.



Basic Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in public administration, agricultural business, natural resources, political science, engineering, environmental science, law, or a related field.
- Minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible leadership or management experience related to water resources, agriculture, public policy, natural resources, nonprofit administration, or governmental affairs.
- Demonstrated leadership experience managing complex organizational or stakeholder environments.
- Strong understanding of public policy processes, governmental relations, and organizational operations.
- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Strong organizational and strategic planning abilities.
- Ability to communicate effectively with agricultural producers, elected officials, agencies, and diverse stakeholders.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and work effectively under pressure.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook).
- Valid driver's license and willingness to travel throughout the Klamath Basin and beyond.



Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge of western water law, irrigation systems, and Klamath Basin water issues.
- Experience working with federal and state resource agencies such as USBR, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, OWRD, or related entities.
- Background in legislative affairs, public policy advocacy, or intergovernmental relations.
- Experience in nonprofit leadership, association management, or agricultural organizations.
- Familiarity with public utilities, energy policy, or infrastructure-related issues.
- Experience managing budgets, grants, contracts, and organizational operations.
- Strong negotiation, facilitation, and conflict-resolution skills.
- Experience supervising staff or multi-disciplinary teams.



Compensation

This is a senior leadership position, and compensation will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. KWUA offers a competitive benefits package, including:

- Employer-sponsored 401(k) plan
- Health, vision, and dental coverage
- Paid leave and holidays

How to Apply

Please submit a cover letter and resume to assist@kwua.org. Resumes will be accepted through June 26, 2026.

For more information, visit www.kwua.org.

KWUA is an equal opportunity employer. All offers of employment are contingent upon successful background and drug screenings.