READER'S GUIDE

Welcome to the Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FWIP EIS). Below are a few tips to help you make best use of the document.

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT DOES

- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is obligated to fund and implement fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery actions. BPA also has a statutory obligation to understand the environmental consequences of its actions and to provide an opportunity for the public to participate in agency decisionmaking. Accordingly, the FWIP EIS process has been designed to meet the needs of both agency decisionmakers and the public as we work together under current and developing Pacific Northwest (PNW) mitigation and recovery Policy Direction(s). In years to come, as new direction(s) emerge, BPA expects that this EIS—designed to cover a wide range of possible actions—will continue to provide the necessary environmental coverage to allow mitigation and recovery actions to proceed expeditiously and in full compliance with NEPA.
- This EIS is designed to (1) evaluate the range of potential Policy Directions and possible related implementing actions that the Region and BPA could decide to take for fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery, (2) show how to identify the direction at any given time that best reflects the PNW's policy for fish and wildlife populations in the Region, and (3) determine the environmental consequences of BPA's present and future decisions to implement and fund actions that could emerge from that policy.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FWIP EIS

- Many EISs are written for specific actions, e.g. building a fish hatchery or developing wildlife habitat. This EIS, however, is about *policy*: what kind of priorities to set for fish and wildlife and how to integrate those priorities with other needs for the use of the river and land.
- This means that the discussions and analyses in this EIS are different from those in typical site-specific EISs. You won't see many calculations, but you *will* see how different actions will cause more or less impact on a natural, social, or economic resource. You will see the same topics covered that the Council on Environmental Quality specifies for EISs: Need, Background, Alternatives (including No Action or Status Quo—continuing to follow the same path), and Environmental Consequences.
- This EIS has condensed tens of thousands of pages of technical information produced in other regional processes and considered hundreds of public comments in evaluating key topics connected with fish and wildlife policy. The many proposed fish and wildlife actions have been sorted into five basic Policy Direction alternatives, representing a wide range of themes. These Policy Directions provide a basis for organizing the many fish and wildlife processes and ideas. (See Figure RG-1.)
- After considering the entire EIS record, BPA has now identified an initial Preferred Alternative Policy Direction (PA 2002). This PA 2002 best reflects the Agency's consideration of guidance from the PNW. See Chapter 3 for details.

HOW THE EIS IS STRUCTURED

- To focus on the problems and compare possible solutions, please read Chapters 1 and 3. For an understanding of the existing environment and a detailed analysis of the effects on the human environment of implementing the Policy Directions, read Chapter 5. To understand the difficulties of implementing a Policy Direction, and what provisions have been made for change, read Chapter 4. Chapter 2 summarizes key points in the history of fish and wildlife policy in the Region. Chapter 6 focuses on how a selected policy might be managed. (See Figure RG-2.) Chapter 7 addresses pertinent Federal statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders related to the Policy Directions. Chapter 8 presents a brief summary of the results of public meetings and workshops.

Figure RG-1: Sorting Policy Alternatives

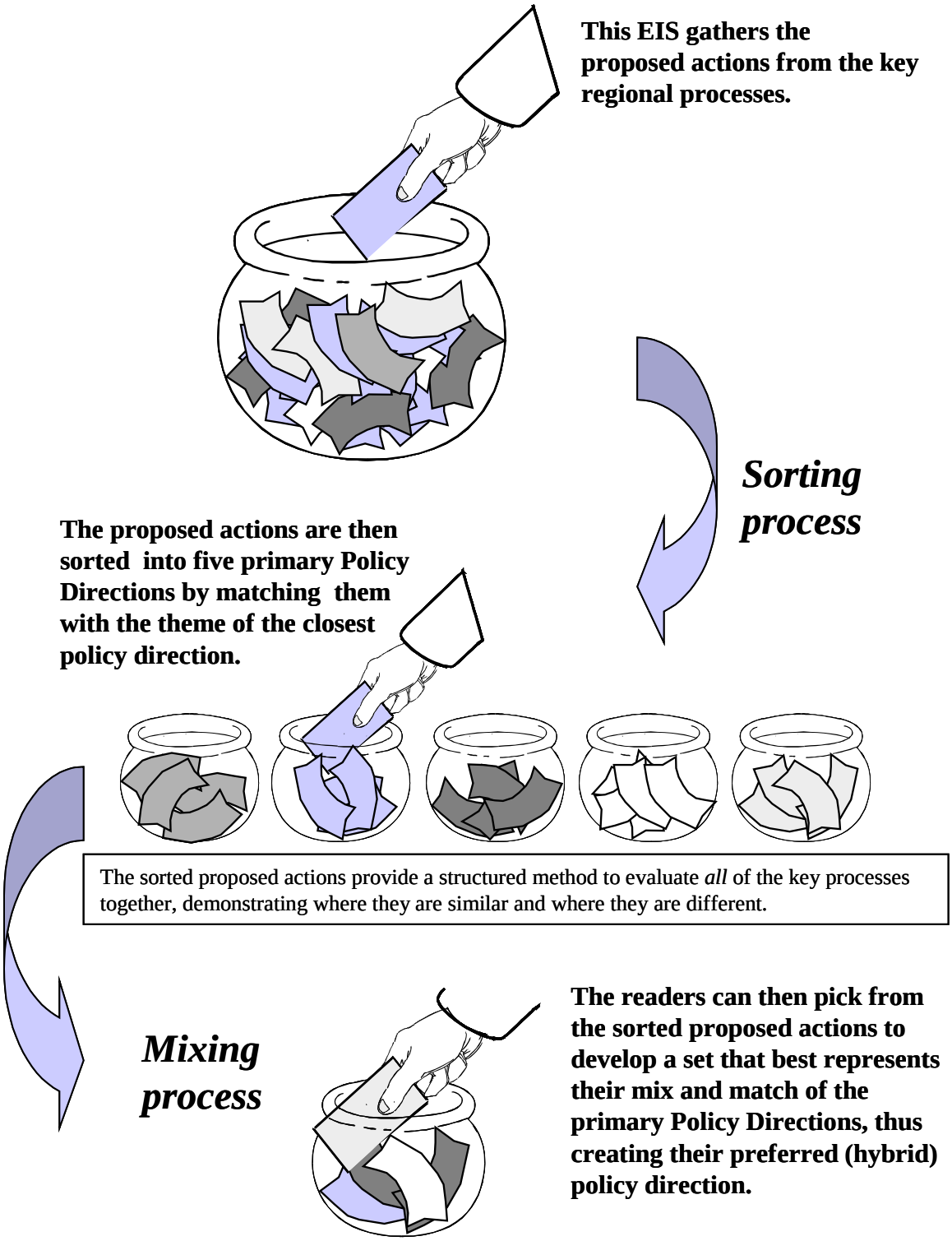
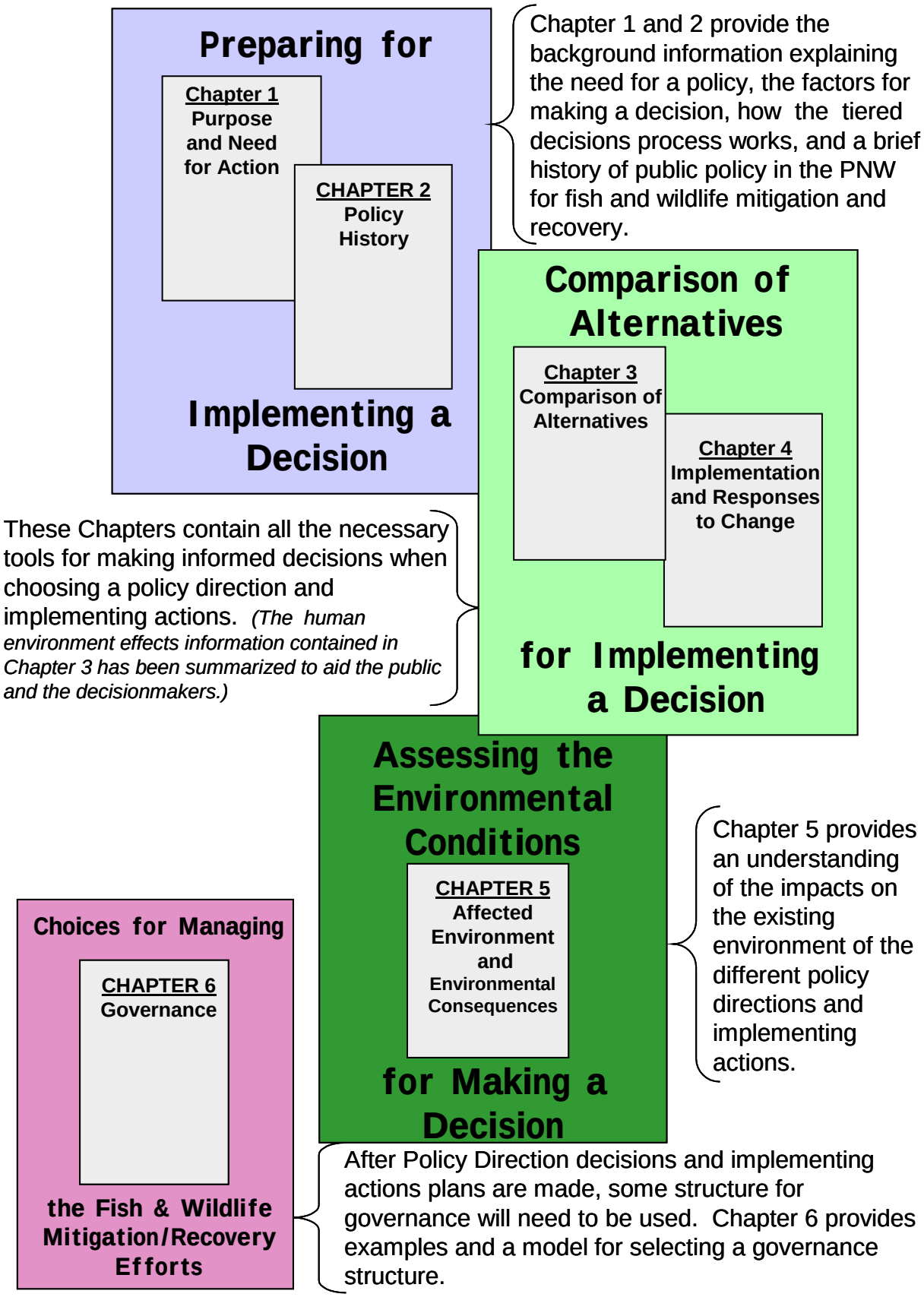


Figure RG-2: Structure of the Chapters



"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." *Albert Einstein*