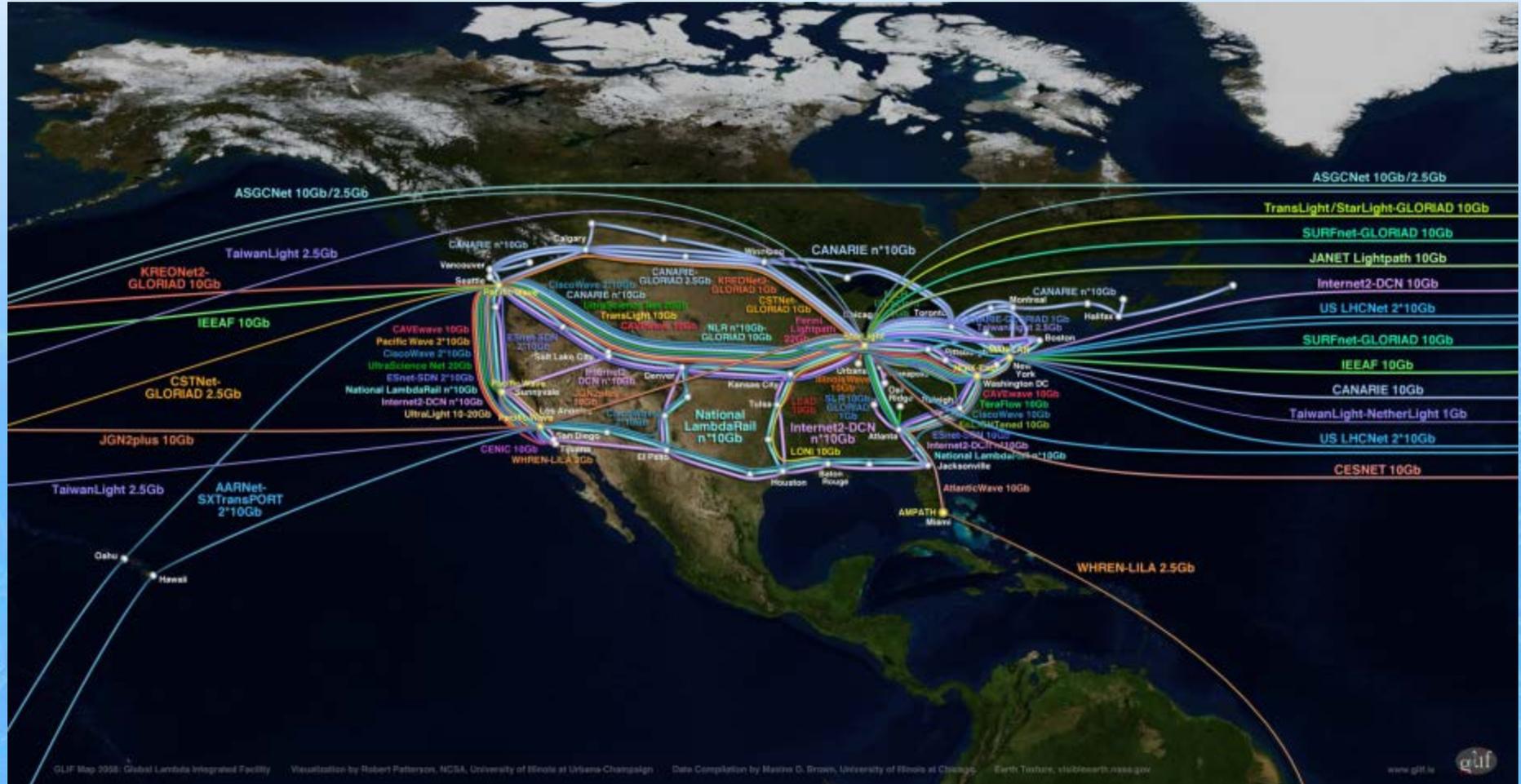




IRON
IDAHO REGIONAL
OPTICAL NETWORK

Prepared for
Idaho State Legislature
Energy, Environment and Technology Committee

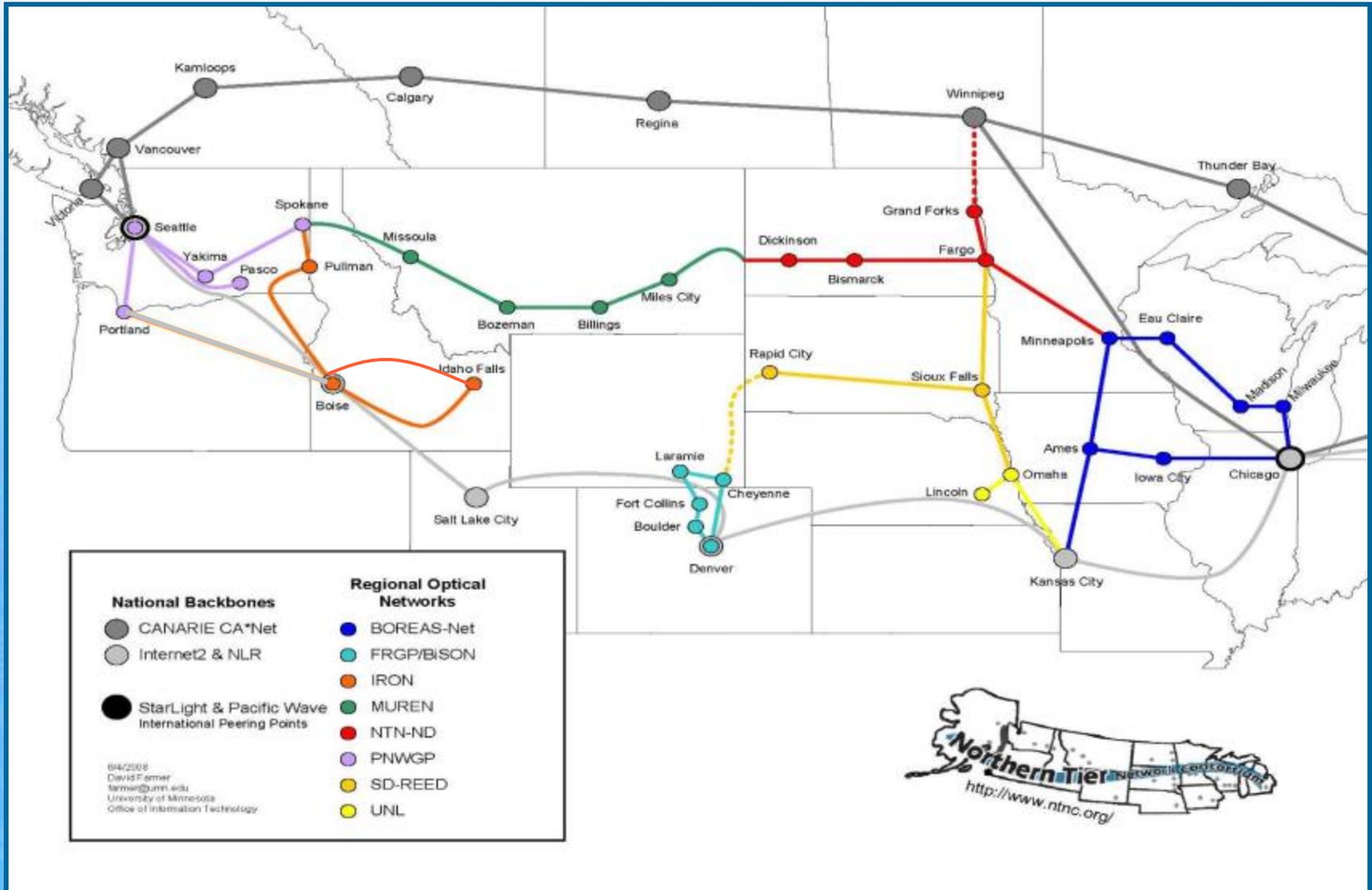
Idaho and IRON Are Part of the National and International Research and Education Fabric



Why do RONS Exist?

- RONS provide access to high-speed networking and services that support education (K-12, colleges, universities) and research.
 - Access to the national and international Research & Education Networks
 - Access to Internet² and National Lambda Rail (NLR) data, services and content.
 - Access to very high speed, very low cost bandwidth
 - Network infrastructure (conduit, fiber, equipment, consulting)
 - Collaborative research between R&E and Higher Ed facilities
 - Applications and services tailored to research and education

Northern Tier Network Consortium with IRON



Why was IRON formed?

- IRON was created as a non-profit 501(c)(3) Idaho charity by the Charter Associates.

BSU

U of I

BYU-I

WSU

IHA

INL

ISU

State of Idaho/DoA

- Each Associate contributes funding to provide benefits to the entire state. They are focused on moving the state across the digital divide. IRON receives no state funding.

Why was IRON formed?

- Created at a time when there was little commercial competition in many parts of rural Idaho and Washington.
- Few of the higher education institutions were connected to each other.
- To bring Associates together in a collaborative organization.

IRON Today

- We've grown from 3 connection points statewide to 16 in under 5 years.
- We provide regional connectivity to WA, MT and UT as well as national connectivity to Internet2 (I2).
- We provide network transport services that connect institutions directly to each other as well as commodity Internet services.
- We received a \$3M grant in 2012 from the Joe and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to support distance education in Idaho.
- We are expanding our services to include disaster recovery, computing and storage services.

Strategic Partnerships

- Improved collaboration between Associates on grant funding and partnerships.
- IRON is an objective voice for high-speed networking in the state and region.
- Reduced costs - sharing IRON's resources between Associates versus purchasing them separately as in the past.
- Creation of an infrastructure which provides returns to Associates beyond typical 3-5 lease periods.

Strategic Partnerships

- IEN
 - K-12 schools and libraries have high speed access to distance learning content and dual credit opportunities through IEN's connectivity via IRON;
- Idaho Computing Consortium
 - Idaho universities are geographically independent yet able share these top-notch facilities at INL for high performance computing. They have access at a fraction of the investment required independently, because IRON provides the very high speeds needed.

IRON's Results

- Bandwidth for the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) is provided entirely by IRON
- 10G access for ISU
- 10G access for Post Falls and CDA where they previously could only afford 10-20Mbps.
- 10G access for University of Idaho.

IRON's Results

- UI directly connects their remote campus locations throughout Idaho and Washington. This was not practical before the advent of IRON.
- 10G Internet access for BSU in Boise when they previously had 100Mbps with their commercial carrier. This allowed them to scale their service on demand.

Questions?