

## PROJECT PROFILE: OPEN OFFICE SPACE



**PROJECT:** MISSOULA TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER, Missoula, Montana

**CLIENT:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

To make use of natural lighting in the office areas of this building, some individual offices did not include ceilings. It was not until after this building opened that employees realized that they could clearly hear each other throughout the space, creating a lack of privacy, many distractions, and reduced productivity. Big Sky Acoustics was contacted to improve the acoustic situation without affecting the existing natural lighting and aesthetics.

### SERVICES and SOLUTIONS:

- Observed the existing conditions during a site visit, and met with the employees to discuss their perception of the problem.
- Analyzed how sound reflected in the space to determine the optimum location of sound-absorbing treatment to prevent the reflection of voices over the walls of each office.
- Researched acoustical materials that were highly sound absorptive, had the look of gypsum board and exhibited high light reflectance to meet acoustical goals and not adversely affect the existing aesthetics of the space.
- Provided recommendations and specifications for acoustical material that met the acoustical and aesthetic goals for the project, and allowed the U.S.D.A. to solicit cost-effective bids from contractors.

