

PROJECT PROFILE: **OPEN OFFICE**



PROJECT: GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION Bozeman, Montana

As good stewards of the environment, the Coalition renovated the Gallatin Seed Company building for their collaborative office. Due to cost concerns, the Coalition and Architect took a “wait and see” approach to address the privacy and acoustical issues of the open office space. As a result, employees could clearly understand conversations across the building, causing distractions, reduced productivity and a lack of privacy.

Big Sky Acoustics was hired to complete a Speech Privacy Analysis and provide design recommendations and material options to improve the acoustical environment.

BSA's SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS:

- Determined the existing articulation index (AI) between offices, and completed 11 measurements throughout the space.
- Evaluated the effectiveness of three potential acoustical modifications including:
 - ◇ Wall panels
 - ◇ Ceiling treatments
 - ◇ Sound masking system
- Calculated new AI values to determine if the design goal could be achieved using one or multiple modifications, and determined the quantity, location and amount of acoustical material needed.
- Determined that an electronic sound masking system would provide the greatest improvement in speech privacy when installed in tandem with wall and ceiling treatments.
- Provided four design options and multiple manufacturers recommendations for sound absorptive ceiling treatment.
- Determined the square footage and placement for tackable acoustical wall panels for each office, providing a double use as bulletin boards.

