

# COR Enterprises, Montana



## Saving Sage Grouse One Fence Marker at a Time

In 2010, Bruce Waage needed a manufacturing source for the white fence markers so crucial to preventing sage grouse collisions. Waage, who serves as the NRCS/BLM sage-grouse liaison, approached COR Enterprises, a disability services organization in Billings, Montana, and launched a partnership that exemplifies mutually beneficial conservation.

SGI desired a reliable supply of fence markers, manufactured on an as-needed basis for ranchers and partner organizations. COR Enterprises welcomed the new source of work for the seven people with disabilities that staff the organization's in-house workshop.

As Executive Director Tony Cline notes, in these days of automation it's harder and harder to find work for people in sheltered employment. "Having contracts our clients can work on and get paychecks for is very important."

In the three years since that first meeting, COR Enterprises employees have produced well over 100,000 fence markers from 12-foot lengths of white vinyl siding trim. That translates to 60 miles of marked fences near leks, reducing bird strikes by up to 83 percent.



*"It helps put my guys to work and it helps save the grouse."* ~Tony Braunstadter, manager of COR Enterprises workshop



## Meet COR Enterprises

### About

"We're here to serve individuals with disabilities and we're here to serve the business community," says COR Enterprises Executive Director Tony Cline. To meet this goal, COR Enterprises evaluates each of the roughly 600 people with disabilities they work with each year to determine which services will work best for them.



For some, that means in-house job readiness training and employment at tasks like bulk mailing and product assembly. Others may be ready for placement in community-based work, and COR helps connect clients with employers. The organization also helps clients with everyday tasks like menu planning and medical care, and provides training courses.

### Role with Sage Grouse Initiative

COR Enterprises produces fence markers for SGI projects, reducing sage grouse mortality while providing paychecks and meaningful work for adults with disabilities.



### Contact

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