

**Agency: Department of Natural Resources****Project Title:****Project Type:** Planning and Research

# Historical Alaskan Leaders Documentary

**State Funding Requested: \$500,000**  
One-Time Need**House District:** Statewide (1-40)**Brief Project Description:**

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| Documentary movie detailing the life of former Governor Wally Hickel and additional funds for documentary series of other Alaskan leaders such as Ted Stevens. |
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**Funding Plan:**

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Project Cost:           | \$965,000          |
| Funding Already Secured:      | (\$465,000)        |
| FY2012 State Funding Request: | <u>(\$500,000)</u> |
| Project Deficit:              | \$0                |

*Funding Details:**Funding raised to date from the private sector: \$285,000.**Alaska Film Tax Credit: \$180,000***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

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| <p><b>Hickel Documentary:</b> A national and international television documentary that tells the surprising story of this once poor boy who became a successful, hard-driving businessman earning a reputation as a pro Alaska developer of natural resources such as oil and gas, visionary for big projects and defender of rivers and oceans. The two time governor, (Alaska's 2nd and 8th) stood up for Alaska as he traveled the world. He is admired throughout the Arctic and in Japan, Russia, China and parts of Africa. Never one to back down when he believed he was right, he stood up to a President when he was Secretary of the Interior, was fired and became a national hero to millions. The self made man was always a fighter for Alaska's interests and his ideas about the ownership of resources for maximum benefit for people. \$375,000 to match private donations and complete the documentary.</p> |
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| <p><b>Alaska Leaders Series:</b> Ted Stevens. To begin work on the story of the pro Alaska fighter who would become the longest serving Republican in the United States Senate. Affectionately known as "Uncle Ted" he was an important figure in the battle for statehood, then a constant representative for Alaska's interests on the national stage. Respected by Presidents and his colleagues in the senate, he worked tirelessly to bring Alaska into the modern era. \$125,000 for planning, research and development.</p> |
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| <p>The Office of History and Archaeology will work with Great Projects Media as well as the Institute of the North to complete the Hickel documentary and start planning for documentary of Ted Stevens. The Institute of the North will help facilitate project direction as well as education and outreach.</p> |
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**Project Timeline:**

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| FY2012 |
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**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Great Projects Media LLC

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Judy Bittner  
Title: Chief, Office of History and Archaeology  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

# **Alaska, the World and Wally Hickel**

## **A documentary for public television**

### **Executive Summary**

Some people's lives are so rich and multifaceted that they are like a prism of history, enabling us to see the different forces at work during an historical period. Walter J. Hickel led just such a life. His long and varied career as pioneer, builder, Alaska Governor, Interior Secretary and world citizen illuminates such critical contemporary issues as the environment, the energy crisis, the struggle against poverty, and justice for indigenous peoples around the world.

Our documentary tells the surprising story of how this hard-driving businessman became one of the world's strongest advocates for protecting our land, water and air. But what makes Hickel even more fascinating is that this fierce defender of rivers and oceans, this protector of whales and alligators, was just as tough in his determination that we keep drilling into the earth to extract oil and gas.

Throughout his career, Hickel confounded friend and foe alike because he defied the easy stereotypes of "environmentalist" and "businessman." He was convinced he'd discovered a novel philosophy – inspired by the history of Alaska, and centered around the concept of "the commons" – that could show us how to balance development with preservation, satisfy our need for energy, and, he believed, even overcome poverty itself.

For forty years after leaving Washington, D.C., he kept building, winning another term as Alaska Governor, and traveling the world to advance his bold, hopeful vision of developing the Arctic, and sharing the Earth's riches in a way that would benefit all of its citizens.

There is a wealth of archival material available – film, video, photographs, print and audio – that we will use to document Hickel's life and his times. And there is an equally rich roster of potential interviewees. The story will be told with energy, candor, and the irreverent sense of humor for which this eminently quotable politician has always been known.

As we tell Hickel's story, we will also be tracing his development of what he calls "the Alaska Solution": a unique blend of common ownership with private enterprise. Viewers will be able to decide for themselves if Hickel really found the solution to the world's resource and environmental problems and the secret for providing a comfortable standard of living for the people on this planet for generations to come.

## The Creative Team:

**Executive Producer Ken Mandel** co-founded Great Projects Film Company in 1988. He recently produced *Building Alaska*, a ninety-minute history about the creation of Alaska's transportation infrastructure which premiered on KAKM in Anchorage in November 2009. The Emmy<sup>®</sup>-winning, Oscar<sup>®</sup>-nominated Great Projects produced *The Trial of Saddam Hussein*, broadcast in October 2008 on PBS, and produced the definitive documentaries about rebuilding at Ground Zero: *America Rebuilds: A Year at Ground Zero* about the recovery effort the year following 9/11, and *America Rebuilds: Foundations of Freedom*, broadcast on the fifth anniversary of the attack. Mandel produced the four-part series *Great Projects: The Building of America*, highlighting American engineering and public works achievements; won an Emmy<sup>®</sup> for *George Marshall and the American Century*, and produced *An Essay on Matisse*, nominated for an Oscar<sup>®</sup> in 1997.

**Consulting Producer Paul V. Brown** lived in Alaska for many years and founded the highly regarded Alaska Repertory Theater. He has been a consultant and project manager for art, cultural and political issue organizations in both the United States and Europe.

**Writer Edward Gray** is a three-time Emmy Award winner and a two-time winner of the Writers Guild of America Award. Ed has worked with such leading journalists as Peter Jennings and Thomas Friedman. Between 1998 and 2004, Ed worked as a writer, producer and director in the television production unit of The New York Times.

**Schedule:** The goal is to complete fundraising for the project in early 2011. We will produce and complete the documentary in 2011.

**Budget and Underwriting:** The production budget is \$980,000. It will be raised from a combination of sources: individuals, foundations, government, and corporations.

**Board of Advisors:** A prestigious board of advisors has been established to ensure the quality and accuracy of the film.

## Board of Advisors

**Mr. Nils Andreassen**, Managing Director, Institute of the North

**Mr. Jim Blasingame**, former Exec. VP, Corporate Affairs,  
the Alaska Railroad

**Mr. Carl Brady**, Chairman (ret), CEO Marsh USA, Inc.

**Ms. Judy Brady**, former Exec. Dir. of the Alaska Oil & Gas Assoc. and Comm. of DNR

**Mr. Charlie Cole**, former Alaska Attorney General

**Mr. Bill Corbus**, Alaska Electric Light and Power,  
former Alaska Comm. of Revenue

**Mr. Art Davidson**, prominent Alaska mountain climber, environmentalist and author

**His Excellency Olafur Grimsson**, President of the  
Republic of Iceland

**The Honorable Vic Fischer**, one of the authors of the  
Alaska Constitution

**Mr. William L. Iggiagruk “Willie” Hensley**

**Mr. John Hendrickson**, aide to Governor Hickel in the 1990s; Pres. Whitney Industries

**Senator Charlie Huggins**, Alaska State Senate

**Mr. Edgar F. Kaiser**, Chairman of the Board, Kaiser Foundation

**Mr. Mike Kenny**, former president Teamsters, Alaska

**Mr. Michael Levett**, CEO, CDC Development Solutions

**Mr. Steve Lindbeck**, President APTI, Anchorage

**Mr. John MacKinnon**, Executive Director, Associated General Contractors of Alaska

**Mr. David N. Parker**, President and C.E.O., American  
Gas Association

**Ms. Susan Ruddy**, Providence Alaska Foundation

**Ms. Peg Tileston**, Environmental activist

**Academician Evgeny Velikhov**, President, Russian Research Center Kurchatov Institute

**The Honorable Jim Whitaker**, former mayor of Fairbanks  
North Star Borough

**Dr. John S. Whitehead**, Professor of History Emeritus UAF

**Senator Bill Wielechowski**, Alaska State Senate

**Mr. Norio Yamamoto**, Japanese global infrastructure expert

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