

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
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Denver, Colorado 80203

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SAVERY-POT HOOK PROJECT

The Savery-Pot Hook project is located in the Little Snake River basin in northwestern Colorado and southwestern Wyoming. The project was authorized by the Congress in 1964 as a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project Act. The Pot Hook Water Conservancy District was organized in 1960 to act as a sponsoring and contractual agency for that portion of the project located in the state of Colorado. The district includes a portion of Moffat County.

Plan of Development

Unused flows of Little Snake River and its tributaries, Savery Creek from the north and Slater and Willow Creeks from the south, will be developed for irrigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Flood control also will be provided. The project will generally be compatible with the environment of the area.

Storage regulation will be provided in Savery Reservoir on Savery Creek in Wyoming and in Pot Hook Reservoir on Slater Creek in Colorado. Releases from the reservoirs and usable natural and return flows will be diverted by new and existing canals and ditches. New canals will include the Dolan Mesa Canal heading on Savery Creek and the Pot Hook Canal heading at the Pot Hook Reservoir. Two major laterals will branch from the Pot Hook Canal. New lateral systems will be constructed for full irrigation service lands. Drains will be constructed as needed.

Dead and inactive storage will be available in both Savery and Pot Hook Reservoirs for fishing and recreation, and minimum flows for fish will be maintained in Savery Creek. Recreational facilities will be constructed at both Savery and Pot Hook Reservoirs. Range lands below the project will be improved as wildlife habitat to compensate for habitat lost through inundation of reservoir basins and irrigation of new lands.

Some federal and state land will be acquired to permit enlargement of existing farms and establishment of new farm units. Assistance to settlers will be provided as part of project development.

Project Costs (Estimated)

Irrigation	\$44,428,000
Settlement	480,000
Fish and wildlife enhancement	1,465,000
Recreation	677,000
Flood control	<u>876,000</u>
Total Cost	\$47,930,000

Water allocations

Colorado - irrigation	29,100 a.f.
Wyoming - irrigation	<u>22,400 a.f.</u>
Total	51,500 a.f.
Annual depletion of the Colorado River (Colorado)	15,000 a.f.
Annual salinity contribution to Colorado River	2.5 ppm
Benefit-cost ratio (3 1/4%)	1.33 to 1
Benefit-cost ratio (5 1/2%)	0.79 to 1

Environmental Impact

a. Mitigation of the losses of big game range resulting from new irrigation in Wyoming has not been resolved.

b. Loss of big game range in Colorado has been established but how to mitigate the losses has not been agreed to.

c. Big game access across canals is a significant problem that was resolved by including big game crossings.

d. Project irrigation and stream depletions will result in 2.5 ppm increase in salinity in the Lower Colorado River below Lake Mead.

#### Current Status

Topographic mapping of the project area was initiated in F.Y. 1965 with funds contributed by local interests. Advance planning studies were initiated with federal funds in F.Y. 1966 and the definite plan report was completed in January 1972.

Negotiations with the Little Snake River Water Conservancy District in Wyoming and the Pot Hook Water Conservancy District in Colorado on the project repayment contract have been initiated.

The draft environmental statement is being revised after consideration of the comments received.

Funds in the amount of \$250,000 were appropriated in F.Y. 1971 for initiation of construction but were placed in budgetary reserve. These funds have not yet been released.

Total investigation costs to June 30, 1972, including feasibility and advance planning, amount to \$1,074,782.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations

The greatest need for the area, in addition to a stabilized water supply for agriculture, is a dependable base for service industries and economic expansion of agricultural opportunities. With limited reservoir storage now available, the area averages about 28 percent of ideal diversion requirement. This limited water supply has prevented any agricultural expansion and has forced the area's young people to go elsewhere for work.

The states of Colorado and Wyoming both agree to the need of recreational facilities in this area and have encouraged the development of water based recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement. Other benefits are erosion control and sediment deposits into the Colorado River main stream that will be controlled by the proposed flood control regulation of spring flows into the Little Snake River from Savery and Slater Creeks.

The Savery-Pot Hook project area lies in a somewhat isolated

section of Colorado and Wyoming. While there is great local interest and support for the project, the relatively small number of people involved have not been able to generate any great political support for their project. However, the project is sound and would contribute considerably to the economic base of the Little Snake River Valley.

The project should be constructed at the earliest possible time. However, since irrigation has a zero rating with the present administration, the probability of getting any new construction started in the near future will depend on Congress. In view of the current situation, it is recommended:

1. That no appropriation be sought for the Savery-Pot Hook project for F.Y. 1974.

2. That every attempt be made to secure the release of the \$250,000 now in budgetary reserve for the purpose of initiating project construction during F.Y. 1975.