

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
 823 State Centennial Building
 1313 Sherman Street
 Denver, Colorado 80203

March 1977

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 Savery Creek in Wyoming and Slater Creek in Colorado will be developed for irrigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Flood control also will be provided.

Storage regulation will be provided in Sandstone Reservoir on Savery Creek and in Pot Hook Reservoir on Slater Creek. 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 at Sandstone Reservoir and the Pot Hook Canal heading at 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. Willow Creek water will be made available through exchange to lands above Pot Hook Canal.

Dead and inactive storage will be available in both Sandstone 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 Sandstone 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.

Water Supply (Colorado)

Irrigation supply (acre-feet)	53,600
Stream depletion (acre-feet)	22,400

Irrigation Service Area (acres)

	Wyo.	Colo.	
Full service land	6,590	7,820	14,410
Supplemental service land	<u>10,690</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>14,330</u>
Total	17,280	11,460	28,740

Project Features

Reservoirs	<u>Pot Hook</u>	<u>Savery</u>
Capacity (acre-feet)	60,000	16,600
Active	26,000	15,100
Inactive	34,000	1,500
Normal water surface (feet)	6,688	6,868
Surface area (acres)	1,037	382
Dams		
Height (feet)	135	133
Crest length (feet)	1,520	1,690
Crest width (feet)	30	30
Type	Rolled earthfill	Rolled earthfill
Canals	<u>Pot Hook</u>	<u>Dolan Mesa</u>
Length (miles)	39	13
Initial capacity (sec-ft)	290	80

Estimated Costs

Construction costs (January 1976 prices)	
Pot Hook Dam and Reservoir	\$17,000,000
Sandstone Dam and Reservoir	15,300,000
Dolan Mesa Canal and laterals	7,900,000
Pot Hook Canal and laterals	27,350,000
Project drains	2,200,000
Permanent operating facilities	580,000
Temporary camp	650,000
Farm access roads	400,000
Enlargement units land purchase and resale	1,650,000
Wildlife range acquisition and improvement	1,800,000
Access easements	345,000
Stackyards	500,000
Recreation facilities	500,000
Less service facilities, depreciation, and salvage	<u>-475,000</u>
Total cost	\$75,700,000
Annual operation, maintenance, and replacement costs (1973-1975 prices)	181,000

Economic Analysis (100-year period)

Benefits	Direct	Indirect	Total
<u>Project purposes</u>	<u>benefits</u>	<u>benefits</u>	<u>benefits</u>
Irrigation	\$1,806,000	\$ 598,000	\$2,404,000
Fish and wildlife	9,000		9,000
Recreation	58,000		58,000
Flood control	31,000		31,000
Total	\$1,904,000	\$ 598,000	\$2,502,000
Annual equivalent costs			\$2,839,000
Benefit-cost ratio			.88:1

Current Status

The Savery-Pot Hook Project has completed advance planning stages and the definite plan report is being written. The project was authorized September 2, 1964, (Public Law 88-568) as a participating project under the Colorado River Storage Act of April 11, 1956, (Public Law 84-458). The FY 1977 Public Works Appropriation Act included \$1,200,000 for FY 1977 and the President's budget for FY 1978 included \$5,992,000.

Negotiations with the Little Snake River Water Conservancy District and the Pot Hook Water Conservancy District on the project repayment contracts have been initiated. A draft environmental statement was released and filed with the Council on Environmental Quality in August 1972. A second draft statement was filed with CEQ in September 1976. The final environmental statement is in the review process.

Design of Moffat County Roads No. 1 and No. 2 to be relocated around Pot Hook Reservoir is completed. This is being done under a preconstruction agreement with the Moffat County Highway Department. Aerial topography is completed for the Savery-Pot Hook Project area. Design data for the operation and maintenance headquarters will be submitted to the Regional Office for initiating of specifications, and construction is to begin in June. Archaeological surveys for the project area will be completed this summer. Preconstruction design data collection has been completed.

Total Federal project expenditures through September 30, 1976 amount to \$1,502,030.

The tentative work plan schedule through FY 1978 is as follows:

February 1977	The final environmental impact statement sent to Region, Denver, and Commissioner for review.
March 1977	Final EIS sent to CEQ.
April 1977	Specifications on Pot Hook Dam and Reservoir are initiated.

April 1977 (con't.) The repayment contract is executed.

Initial purchase of rights-of-way for Moffat County Roads relocation and Pot Hook Dam and Reservoir is begun. Rights-of-way purchases on other project features will follow as required.

The relocation agreement for the construction of Moffat County Roads is entered into.

Lease agreement for temporary camp will be entered into.

Specifications are issued for the operations and maintenance headquarters.

Design data collection on Dolan Mesa Canal and laterals is initiated.

June 1977

The repayment contract is validated.

An award for the construction of the operation and maintenance headquarters is made.

November 1977

Specifications are issued for Pot Hook Dam and Reservoir.

February 1978

The prime contract for Pot Hook Dam and Reservoir is awarded.

October 1978

Specifications are issued for Pot Hook Canal and laterals.

January 1979

Specifications are issued for the access road to Sandstone Dam.

Local Interest

High enthusiasm for construction of the Savery-Pot Hook Project has been expressed by State and local interests. The Savery-Little Snake Water Conservancy District was organized in September, 1959 to be the administrative and contracting agency for the reclamation features and obligations in Wyoming, and the Pot Hook Water Conservancy District was formed in June, 1960 for the same purposes in Colorado. The State of Colorado through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the Pot Hook Water Conservancy District have all contributed funds to the Bureau of Reclamation to expedite the investigations. The Colorado River Water Conservation District has also assisted the project districts in making project water right applications.

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 storage now available, the area averages a shortage of about 28 percent of ideal diversion requirement with some parts of the area averaging about a 50 percent shortage. 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 for recreational facilities in this area and have encouraged the development of water based recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement. Other benefits are control of erosion and sediment deposits into the Colorado River main stream 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 President recommended the sum of \$5,992,000 be appropriated for FY 1978 to continue construction of the project. This amount appears to be adequate. It is therefore recommended that the Governor and the members of Colorado's congressional delegation be requested to support this appropriation.