

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

March 1978

SAVERY-POT HOOK PROJECT

The Savery-Pot Hook Project is located in southern Wyoming and northwestern Colorado in the Little Snake River Basin of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Unused flows of Savery Creek in Wyoming and Slater Creek in Colorado would be developed for irrigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife uses. Willow Creek water would be made available, by exchange, to lands above Pot Hook Canal. Flood control would also be provided.

Status

The Savery-Pot Hook Project was authorized for construction September 2, 1964 (Public Law 88-568), as a participating project under the Colorado River Storage Project Act of April 11, 1956 (Public Law 84-485). A Definite Plan Report was completed in June, 1971, and revised in January, 1972. A Draft Environmental Statement was released and filed with the Council on Environmental Quality in August, 1972. Because of changes in the project plan, costs, and benefits, it was decided to revise the Definite Plan Report and the Draft Environmental Statement. The revised Draft Environmental Statement was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality September 27, 1976; and the Final Environmental Statement has been submitted to the Secretary of the Interior but as yet has not been filed with the Council on Environmental Quality. A revised Definite Plan Report is nearing completion.

Project repayment contracts were approved March 15, 1977, in the Little Snake River Water Conservancy District and March 11, 1977, in the Pot Hook Water Conservancy District. The design of Moffat County Roads Nos. 1 and 2, to be relocated around Pot Hook Reservoir, is nearing completion by Moffat County. Aerial topographic mapping of the project area is completed. Design drilling at Pot Hook Dam Site and Sandstone Dam Site has been completed. The President recommended deletion of funds for the construction of the project. Congress deleted funding from the FY 1978 budget, and the budget authority for FY 1977 was rescinded. Total federal project expenditures through September 30, 1977, amount to \$2,385,600.

Plan

Storage regulation would be provided in Sandstone 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 would be diverted by new and existing canals and ditches. New

canals would include the Dolan Mesa Canal heading at Sandstone Reservoir and the Pot Hook Canal heading at Pot Hook Reservoir. New lateral systems would be constructed from the canals for full irrigation service lands. Drains would be constructed as needed.

Some federal and state lands would be acquired to permit enlargement of existing farm units.

Recreational facilities would be constructed at both Sandstone and Pot Hook Reservoirs. Dead and inactive storage would be available in both reservoirs for fishing and recreation, and minimum flows for fish would be maintained in Savery Creek.

### Water Supply

Irrigation supply (acre-feet)	53,600
Effects on Colorado River	
Increase in salt load (tons)	11,770
Stream depletion (acre-feet)	22,400
Increase in salinity concentration at Imperial Dam (mg/l)	
Increase in salt load	1.2
From concentration due to stream depletion	2.8

### Irrigation Service Area

	<u>Wyoming</u>	<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Total</u>
Full service land (acres)	6,590	7,820	14,410
Supplemental service land (acres)	10,690	3,640	14,330
Total	17,280	11,460	28,740

### Project Features

#### Reservoirs

	<u>Pot Hook</u>	<u>Sandstone</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

	<u>Pot Hook</u>	<u>Sandstone</u>
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 (second-foot)	290	80

Estimated CostsConstruction 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
Enlargement units land purchase and resale	1,650,000
Farm access roads	400,000
Wildlife range acquisition and improvement	1,800,000
Recreation facilities	345,000
Access easements	500,000
Stackyards	500,000
Less service facilities, depreciation and salvage	<u>-475,000</u>

Total cost \$75,700,000

Annual operation, maintenance and replacement costs (1973-75 prices) 181,000

Benefit-Cost Ratio (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) Direct .65:1  
Total .85:1

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 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 for 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 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.

No funds for the project were included in the President's recommended budget for FY 1979. Imagined (but not actual) adverse environmental impacts and an unfavorable benefit-cost ratio were the reasons advanced by the President for his ill-advised action. The project had a favorable benefit-cost ratio until recently, but has now been manipulated into an unfavorable configuration. At the present time, there appears to be little or no chance of securing construction funds.

Every attempt should be made to keep the project alive. There is a good possibility that a more favorable benefit-cost ratio can be demonstrated with some project reformulation. It is the staff recommendation that the Governor and Colorado's congressional delegation be requested to seek an FY 1979 appropriation of \$75,000 for continued advance planning on the Savery-Pot Hook project.

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