

Thus the repayment analysis provides for power throughout the life of the project.

The project would be charged 3 mills per kilowatt-hour for irrigation pumping and 5 mills per kilowatt-hour for M&I pumping. Power acquired under the prepayment plan but not needed for project pumping (because of fluctuations in water supply) would be sold commercially at 5 mills. The total of these revenues would repay the capital costs and operation and maintenance costs of the generation and transmission facilities and would provide the reserve for replacement.

Sincerely yours,

FLOYD E. DOMINY, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION,
Washington, D.C., November 24, 1967.

HON. JOHN P. SAYLOR,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SAYLOR: Please refer to our letter of October 24, 1967, in response to your inquiries concerning the proposed Hooker Dam in New Mexico.

As we explained, we requested the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to respond further to certain of your questions. We now have their comments. Your questions are repeated for convenient reference along with the replies of each of the agencies.

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

25. What is the basis in detail for the benefits claimed for fish and wildlife?

Various plans for the Hooker Reservoir site have been studied intermittently since 1947, including preliminary studies conducted in 1962 for the Pacific Southwest Water Plan. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife participated in a reconnaissance study begun in 1963 and terminated upon completion of a report entitled, "Upper Gila River Project, Arizona and New Mexico—Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Report," dated February 19, 1964. The Upper Gila River Project report presents a refinement of fish and wildlife data presented in the Pacific Southwest Water Plan. Enclosed is a copy of the Upper Gila River report.

Specifically, the February 1964 report provides two plans of development for Hooker Reservoir: Plan 1 with an active pool with a capacity of 150,000 acre-feet and a surface area of 1,780 acres, and Plan 2 with an active pool of 200,000 acre-feet and a surface area of 1,850 acres. In both plans, the sediment pool would be 65,000 acre-feet, with a surface area of 845 acres. Hooker Reservoir's value to fish and wildlife would be essentially the same under both plans.

The reservoir site is located in a narrow canyon in desert grassland-pinyon-juniper transition zone. About 13 miles of the Gila River would be in the Hooker Reservoir site and 13 miles below the dam would be affected. Channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and trout fishing projected over the life of the project would amount to about 9,400 man-days annually without the project. None of the sport fishes in the project area are indigenous.

With-the-project analysis is based upon the 845-acre minimum pool which would extend about 3 miles within the Gila Wilderness Area of the Gila National Forest. Preliminary studies by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish indicate that the reservoir would be suitable for trout and would be stocked and managed as a trout fishery by the State. There would be an estimated 79,500 man-days of fishing annually distributed as follows: reservoir, 46,500 man-days; tailwater, 20,000 man-days; and the 13-mile-downstream reach, 13,000 man-days. Fishery benefits would total \$222,000 annually. The above estimates are for fishing without specific facilities.

Fishing could be improved by the addition of the following specific facilities: construction of two launching ramps would increase fishing by 20,000 man-days with benefits of \$60,000; access for 1,000 feet below the dam, including a berm or other platform, would provide 5,000 man-days with benefits of \$15,000; and reservoir zoning would permit an additional 25,000 man-days with benefits of \$75,000. The three additional measures to the project would increase fishing by 50,000 man-days with annual benefits of \$150,000.

Upland-game species on the 8,000 acres of habitat under Plan I and 10,000 acres under Plan II include Gambel's quail, scaled quail, mourning dove, cottontail, and jackrabbit. A few Mearns' quail, wild turkeys, band-tailed pigeons, and chukars are on the site. The mule deer is the principal big-game animal at the