Perch Deterrents Version 1.1

The Amendments for Idaho, Utah, and Nevada incorporate these general components:[1]

Objective – In nesting habitat, retrofit existing tall structures with perch deterrents or other anti-perching devices within 2 years of signing the ROD (i.e., September of 2017).
Standard – In priority and general habitat management areas require protective stipulations (e.g., noise, tall structure, guy wire removal, perch deterrent installation) when issuing new authorizations or during renewal.
Standard – In priority areas, when feasible, do not locate tanks or other structures that may be used as raptor perches. If this is not feasible, use perch deterrents.

Perch deterrents are devices designed to prevent raptors and corvids from using tall structures as hunting platforms in sage-grouse habitats. Removing perches may lessen the potential impact of avian predators on sage-grouse populations. Although research indicates that perch deterrents do not completely prevent perching, if they are installed correctly, deterrents may reduce perching rates and durations. Commercially available perch deterrents are usually triangle shaped, cone-shaped, or are spike-type structures that dissuade perching on a horizontal beam or pole top.

Use the web based tool and/or a site visit to determine if a structure is within actual sage-grouse habitat. Only structures within actual habitat (see HAF and Habitat Guide) and the mapped management areas need to be assessed for perch deterrents.

Because raptors tend to prefer horizontal elements that provide a wide field of view, prioritize installation of perch deterrents on horizontal elements that provide a large (>180 degrees) unobstructed view of the surrounding ground, and not on elements that have restricted space for landing and don't allow a wide field of view. Perch deterrents should typically be installed on the tops of structures and on horizontal elements that jut away from the main body of a tower.

Examples of commercially available perch deterrents (this is not an exhaustive or endorsed list):
Zena Designs: http://www.zenadesign.com/index.htm
Preformed Line Products: http://preformed.com
Xena Bird Discouragers: http://www.xenabirddiscourager.com
Birdbusters.com: https://www.birdbusters.com

References

Dwyer, J. F., and K. W. Kerrin W. Doloughan. 2014. Testing systems of avian perch deterrents on electric power distribution poles in sage-brush habitat. Human–Wildlife Interactions 8:39–55,

Prather, P.R. and T.A. Messmer. 2010. Raptor and corvid response to power distribution line perch deterrents in Utah. Journal of Wildlife Management 74:796-800.

Slater, S. J., and J. P. Smith. 2010. Effectiveness of raptor perch deterrents on an electrical transmission line in Southwestern Wyoming. Journal of Wildlife Management 74:1080–1088.

[1] Refer to the specific plan amendment for exact language within each state.