

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 173-DH**

Oak Wilt Suppression at Northern Edge

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**Category:** H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

**Sub-Category:** D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 100,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

**Summary:**

Eradicate identified oak wilt at these northern most locations on nine private properties by mechanical means to stop the invasiveness before it spreads to healthy state forests affecting habitat.

**Name:** Helen McLennan

**Sponsoring Organization:** Morrison Soil & Water Conservation District

**Title:** District Manager

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Location**

**Region:** Central

**County Name:** Morrison

**City / Township:** Little Falls, Royalton

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Examples of what oak wilt expresses in forest overview and on ground

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



**PROJECT TITLE:** Oak Wilt Suppression at the Northern Edge

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The overall goal for this project is to suppress oak wilt on all known sites in Morrison county and may include sites if detected in Todd, Mille Lacs, Benton, and Crow Wing Counties. Eradicating the oak wilt sites will protect the surrounding forest, arrest oak wilt spread to the north (Chippewa National Forest) and west, and ease the financial burden of oak wilt control to landowners in Morrison County and communities to the north.

Oak wilt is a burgeoning invasive problem near Little Falls and threatens movement into the Brainerd area. (the beginning of the northern forest region of the state) It has the potential to kill significant percentages of trees in the nearly pure red oaks forests of the area. Oak wilt spots in Morrison County are at the edge of the known disease range in central Minnesota. Control of invasive species is optimal at their leading edge. If oak wilt is not controlled soon in this area, it will quickly grow to an unmanageable situation.

Morrison County SWCD staff will contact landowners to explain the importance of oak wilt control and seek permission to contract control. SWCD will use grant funds to contract out 100 percent of the control work, including vibratory plowing and diseased tree removal and destruction. DNR forest health (FH) staff will help the SWCD through their on-going forest health detection surveys and through technical training and advising. If oak wilt is found in the Brainerd area, this grant could be applied there, as well as at other future oak wilt outlier locations in Todd, Cass, Crow Wing, or northern Mille Lacs counties.

While the project is focused on private lands, the public good comes from controlling the spread to public forests of the state, and the continued habitat for turkey, grouse, deer and other wildlife.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** *Securing Permission to Control Oak Wilt*

**Description:** SWCD staff will establish face to face meetings with affected landowners to secure permission to control oak wilt on their land. Currently there are nine known affected parcels.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$32,000**

**Activity 2:** *Establish contracts with vibratory plow companies to control oak wilt*

**Description:** SWCD staff will secure contracts with companies for oak wilt control, including vibratory plowing and diseased tree removal and destruction. An optional additional control tactic would be for threatened tree removal (i.e. removal of healthy oaks inside plow lines that likely will die of oak wilt in the future). (Conservation Corps was approached but does not have the necessary training and equipment to complete this type of work.)

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$51,500**

**Activity 3:** *Repeat activities 1 and 2 for additional oak wilt spots that the DNR or landowners confirm in 2019*

**Description:** DNR will communicate with Morrison County SWCD staff, as well as appropriate SWCDs in Todd, Cass, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs counties, about additional outlier oak wilt spots confirmed in 2019-2020. SWCD staff will secure permission from affected landowners and secure contracts with oak wilt control companies in 2019 and 2020. Landowners in outlier zones may also confirm oak wilt on their own through lab tests with the University of Minnesota Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$16,500**



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
2019 Main Proposal Template**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. 9 landowners will grant SWCD staff permission to control oak wilt on their properties.	7/20/2019
2. Oak wilt pockets will be eradicated through vibratory plowing and diseased tree removal and destruction	9/01/2019-12/2020
3. Oak wilt will be controlled for locations identified in 2018	4/1/2020

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Morrison SWCD, Helen McLennan	<b>District Manager</b>	Morrison Soil & Water Conservation District	<b>Outreach, direct landowner contact, administer grant, contract companies for eradication, fiscal management and reporting.</b>

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Brian Schwingle</b>	<b>Forest Health Specialist</b>	<b>DNR (Central Region)</b>	<b>Early detection of oak wilt through on-going forest health surveys from Morrison County southward; public notification on oak wilt locations; advise and train SWCD staff on all aspects of oak wilt control; communicate to all SWCDs which landowners are affected; communicate with Todd and Mille Lacs county SWCDs about grant and future affected landowners in those counties.</b>
<b>Michael Parisio</b>	<b>Forest Health Specialist</b>	<b>DNR (Northwest Region)</b>	<b>Early detection of oak wilt from Crow Wing and Cass counties northward; communicate with Cass and Crow Wing county SWCDs about grant and future affected landowners in those counties.</b>

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

The DNR Forest Health team receives a forest health monitoring grant to generally survey the health of the state’s forest canopy every year. They will monitor the success of oak wilt eradication efforts in Morrison County, and they will continue to track the leading edge of oak wilt in the state. If oak wilt arises after control efforts have been completed in Morrison County, the DNR may seek another control grant.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. DNR trains and prepares Morrison County SWCD staff for project implementation by July 30, 2019.
2. Morrison County SWCD staff contact landowners and secure permission for oak wilt control by 9/1/2019.
3. SWCD staff secure contracts with vibratory plow and tree removal companies before 9/30/2019.
4. Contractors plow around oak wilt pockets, remove, and destroy infected trees before 07/01/2020.
5. DNR alerts SWCD staff of additional oak wilt confirmed in 2018 surveys by 7/1/2019.
6. SWCD staff contact landowners and secure permission for oak wilt control by 06/30/21
7. SWCD staff secure contracts with vibratory plow and tree removal companies before 10/1/2020.
8. Contractors plow around oak wilt pockets, remove, and destroy infected trees before 4/1/2021.

Oak Wilt Control Cost Estimate for Morrison County

County	Owner	Legal	Control line (2017 photo)	Trees to remove (2017 photo)	
Morrison	M. Wolff		1006	10	
Morrison	H. Stein trust		2191	8	
Morrison	Z. and Ann Miller		383	2	
Morrison	T. Schneider and T. Demel		267	2	
Morrison	D. and J. Nelson		590	5	
Morrison	C. and E. Cooper		438	2	
Morrison	T. and A. Baum		681	2	
Morrison	C. Kapsmer		438	5	
Morrison	K. and M. Festler		1128	6	
Crow Wing	C. Johnson		342	2	
Cass	future unknown		500	4	
Crow Wing	future unknown		500	4	
Morrison	future unknown		2500	8	
		TOTAL	10964	60	
		Cost	21928	45000	
				TOTAL CONTROL COST	\$66,928.00
				Cost per pocket	\$4,183.00

other activity	cost	notes
lab fees	500	
outreach	500	
fuel	500	
Legal notices	1000	
staff time	21600	(\$45/hr; 240 hrs for 2 years)
misc	8000	
TOTAL	\$32,100.00	

<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$99,028.00</b>
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## MORRISON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Little Falls, Minnesota 56345  
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### Bio:

Helen McLennan, District Manager for Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District has been with the district for 29 years. Holding a degree in Business Administration from the University of California – Berkley, she has managed many grants and budgets over her career with the District which in part include MPCA 319 grants, Clean Water Funds, Special Project grants through BWSR; Challenge Grants, as well as the budget for the district which includes multiple sources of funding from the state, county, and federal funds. She also administers the MN Wetland Conservation Act, the Local Water Plan, and one of the biggest easement programs in the state, the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program which holds over 133 easements funded by the Dept. of Defense, LSOHC, and National Guard Bureau which has received nearly \$30,000,000 to date.