



WHERE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS & HUMAN INTERESTS INTERSECT

## Jefferson Parish Bid No. 50-00147167

February 17, 2025

*Submitted By:*

**ELOS Environmental**

607 W Morris Ave

Hammond, LA 70403

**Lucas Watkins**, President

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*Submission to:*

**Jefferson Parish Government**

Purchasing Department

200 Derbigny Street

Gretna, LA 70053

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Jefferson Parish Purchasing Department:

ELOS is pleased to submit this bid for our services in herbicide spraying, including both smooth and rough median and roadside applications, specifically tailored for the Jefferson Parish Department of Parkways, as well as all Jefferson Parish Agencies and Municipalities. We understand that the contract duration will be three (3) years.

- ELOS is registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State and is authorized to operate in Louisiana (Attachment 1).
- If awarded the contract, ELOS will take full responsibility for the execution of herbicide spraying services.
- ELOS is partnering with Tangi Tree, LLC.

Founded in 2006 by two innovative entrepreneurs from southeast Louisiana, ELOS is a professional consulting firm with extensive expertise in environmental services, including herbicide application. Our vast experience working with federal, state, and local agencies, combined with a strong command of relevant scientific technologies, enables us to offer efficient herbicide spraying services that save valuable time and resources for our clients while aiding them in achieving their objectives. We are committed to partnering with local governments to ensure the effective management of herbicide applications within your parish and to maximize the satisfaction of your constituents.

The enclosed response includes resumes, comparable projects related explicitly to herbicide spraying, copies of the required certifications, and all requested supporting documentation. We are fully aware of the specific certifications required for herbicide application and have partnered with Tangi Tree, LLC ensuring that all the required licenses are up to date. On behalf of our team, I would like to express our gratitude for considering us for this important contract.

Respectfully,



Lucas Watkins  
President/Environmental Scientist  
ELOS Environmental, LLC  
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Hammond, LA 70403  
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## LUCAS WATKINS

President / Environmental Scientist  
lwatkins@elosenv.com



### EDUCATION

MS, Biological Sciences, Southeastern Louisiana University, 2005

BS, Forest Management, Louisiana State University, 2000

### CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- 2010, LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Arborist, License No. 19-1827
- USACE Wetland Delineation, 2007
- Licensed Horticulturist
- Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator
- Certified FERC Regulatory Overview and Guidance
- Certified Prescribed Burn Manager
- Certified NPDES Erosion Inspector
- Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator
- Certified National Highway Institute: NEPA and the Transportation Decision Making Process

### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Start Date: 2006

Firm Experience: 18 years

Total: 22 years

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- FERC Regulatory Overview and Guidance
- ASTM Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments
- Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedures
- Stormwater Management

Mr. Watkins is the President and founding Principal of ELOS. His experience includes environmental regulatory compliance and project management. This includes the management of large-scale, multi-faceted projects, such as disaster recovery debris removal efforts, wetland restoration implementation, government grant management, and complex construction projects. His key strengths include wetland delineations, wetland permitting, wetland restoration, NEPA compliance, ASTM Phase I ESAs, stormwater management, FERC regulatory overview and guidance, endangered species surveys, and timber and forest management. He has substantial experience in permitting municipal infrastructure, levees, borrow pits, oil and gas exploration, productions, and transmission activities, as well as working on other public and private sector environmental-related issues. Mr. Watkins ensures that ELOS acquires the best tools and techniques to guarantee efficient and cost-effective delivery of services to clients.

### RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

#### *Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1*

##### *Tangipahoa Parish, LA, Principal, 2020-Ongoing*

ELOS has been working with the Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 to provide essential vegetative maintenance spraying services on a regular schedule. This initiative spans nearly 800 acres of drainage canals located throughout the parish, underscoring the extensive nature of the project and its importance to the local community. Mr. Watkins provided senior project management and project oversight for the development the overall plan to tackle the immediate issue of the vegetation overgrowth to clear the canals and approved the long-term drainage plan to keep the canal flowing properly.

#### *Pollard Branch Wetland Mitigation Bank*

##### *Tangipahoa Parish, LA, Principal, 2017-Ongoing*

ELOS has successfully completed a range of professional forestry-related tasks associated with the development and ongoing management of the Pollard Branch Wetland Mitigation Bank, an approximately 1,400-acre site located in Tangipahoa, Louisiana. ELOS employs herbicide treatments in specific areas of the property as appropriate. Mr. Watkins provides senior project coordination with project managers and clients. He addresses management of environmental factors that could affect the success of the natural ecosystem.

#### *Jefferson Davis Parish Drone Services*

##### *Jefferson Davis Parish, LA, President, 2021 - Present*

Jefferson Davis Parish retained ELOS to conduct drainage canal surveys utilizing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology. Mr. Watkins provided licensed UAV operators to generate UAV flight plans to ensure efficient and accurate data and imagery collection. Mr. Watkins directed the processing of the collected data and information provided to the Parish.



# CORY RICKS

Senior Project Manager/ Field Crew Manager



Cory Ricks serves as ELOS' wetland delineation specialist. Mr. Ricks has led wetland delineation efforts for multiple projects for local development, mitigation banks, and infrastructure developments. He has assisted with NEPA documentation, permitting, wetland delineations, GIS mapping, and cultural resources for a variety of projects. He currently manages a team of environmental scientists, field biologists, and data processors who assist with various environmental and debris monitoring projects.

## RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### *Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1*

*Tangipahoa Parish, LA, Environmental Scientist, 2020-Ongoing*

ELOS has been working with the Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 to provide essential vegetative maintenance spraying services on a regular schedule. This initiative spans nearly 800 acres of drainage canals located throughout the parish, underscoring the extensive nature of the project and its importance to the local community. Mr. Ricks assisted with developing the plan to not only tackle the immediate issue of the vegetation overgrowth to clear the canals but also the long-term drainage plan to provide stability and a healthy ecosystem.

### *Pollard Branch Wetland Mitigation Bank*

*Tangipahoa Parish, LA, Project Manager, Environmental Scientist, 2017-Ongoing*

ELOS has successfully completed a range of professional forestry-related tasks associated with the development and ongoing management of the Pollard Branch Wetland Mitigation Bank, an approximately 1,400-acre site located in Tangipahoa, Louisiana. In preparation for planting vegetation and to eradicate concentrations of invasive and exotic plant species, ELOS employs herbicide treatments in specific areas of the property as appropriate. Mr. Ricks identified invasive species while leading the efforts to develop a plan for the long-term treatments that ensures the success of the natural ecosystem.

### *Jefferson Parish / ECM Consultants – Veterans and West Esplanade Pump Stations*

*Jefferson Parish, Environmental Scientist, 2019 - 2020*

ELOS was contracted in 2018 to prepare permit applications for the installation of new drainage pump stations and force mains over an existing flood wall in the Parish. The applications included a joint application to USACE and LDENR, one to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and levee permits to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East. Mr. Ricks assisted with preparing and submitting the joint permits.

## EDUCATION

BS, Biology, Southeastern Louisiana University, 2015

## CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- USACE Wetland Certification, 2017
- LDAF Commercial Pesticide Application #00177825, 20196
- Wetland Training Institute Delineator

## YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Total: 8

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Habitat Assessments
- NEPA Compliance
- Wetlands Delineation
- Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Environmental Assessments
- Wetland Value Assessment Modeling
- Mitigation Bank Monitoring
- Hazardous Debris Monitoring

## POLLARD BRANCH WETLAND MITIGATION BANK



ELOS has successfully completed a range of professional forestry-related tasks associated with the development and ongoing management of the Pollard Branch Wetland Mitigation Bank, an approximately 1,400-acre site located in Tangipahoa, Louisiana.

To ensure the long-term success of the mitigation bank, ELOS has provided comprehensive and periodic monitoring services. This process has included the preparation and submission of all necessary reports to the Interagency Review Team (IRT) for approval. Each report is completed in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' approved Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) standards, addressing the required success criteria for the performance of the mitigation efforts. Additionally, ELOS has managed the on-the-ground aspects of construction, hydrologic alterations, and the establishment of bottomland hardwood and pine flatwood/savanna habitats as outlined in the MBI Work Plans. ELOS has facilitated various tasks, including the degradation of pine plantation rows, installation of low-water crossings, silvicultural activities, invasive species eradication, and the systematic planting of native vegetation.

In preparation for planting vegetation and to eradicate concentrations of invasive and exotic plant species, ELOS employs herbicide treatments in specific areas of the property as appropriate. Following treatment, ELOS monitors the affected areas regularly to assess the results and determine the need for follow-up applications. This adaptive management approach ensures that the treatments are effective and that the natural ecosystem can begin to recover and thrive as native vegetation is reintroduced in these rehabilitated areas.

ELOS has been responsible for several key activities, including prescribed burn management, drainage manipulation, commercial timber removal, installation of native saplings, perimeter boundary marking, and maintenance of roadways and designated fire breaks. Overall, ELOS has successfully facilitated the construction, establishment, and long-term management of mitigation bank.

### PROJECT OWNER

Pollard Branch, LLC

### SERVICES PROVIDED

Monitoring, construction, bank establishment, and invasive species management

### PROJECT VALUE

\$362,000

### SCHEDULE

2017-ONGOING

### FIRM PERSONNEL INVOLVED

Lucas Watkins, Jay Prather, Brittany Berthelot, Savannah Watkins, and Cory Ricks

### CLIENT REFERENCE

Jeanine Connelley  
Manager, Pollard Branch, LLC  
Jeanineconnelley@charter.net  
985- 878- 8022

# Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1

Tangipahoa Parish, LA



Since 2020, ELOS has been working closely with the Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 to provide essential vegetative maintenance spraying services on a regular schedule. This initiative spans nearly 800 acres of drainage canals located throughout the parish, underscoring the extensive nature of the project and its importance to the local community.

The primary purpose of this maintenance spraying is to manage and control the growth of grass, weeds, and other types of vegetation that can become overgrown in the drainage canals impeding flow and creating mosquito breeding grounds. To tackle these issues proactively, ELOS has used a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team to develop detailed maps that pinpoint the specific sections of the canals requiring regular spraying. These maps not only streamline the maintenance spraying process but also serve as a vital tool for tracking the health of the canals over time. By enhancing project efficiency in this manner, ELOS aims to ensure that interventions are timely and effective, thereby safeguarding the integrity of the drainage infrastructure.

ELOS remains dedicated to adapting its strategies based on the evolving conditions of the canals and the surrounding environment. Through this partnership, ELOS is not only addressing immediate maintenance needs but also laying the groundwork for long-term drainage stability and ecological health in Tangipahoa Parish.

## CLIENT

Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1

## SERVICES PROVIDED

Vegetative Maintenance Spraying

## PROJECT VALUE

\$700,000+

## SCHEDULE

2020-Ongoing

## FIRM PERSONNEL INVOLVED

Lucas Watkins, Jay Prather, Brittany Berthelot, Brian Fortson, Richard Neal, Mason Accardo, Maxwell Williams, Ricky Henry, and Cory Ricks

## CLIENT REFERENCE

Kiley Bates  
Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1  
48571 Hwy. 51  
Tickfaw, LA 70466  
985-542-4292  
kiley@tangipahoadrainage.org

**EQUIPMENT LIST:**

| <b>Vehicle Type</b> | <b>Quantity</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| GMC Sierra          | 1               |
| Toyota Tundra       | 1               |
| Chevrolet 1500      | 3               |
| Chevrolet 2500      | 1               |
| Chevrolet Colorado  | 2               |
| Chevrolet Silverado | 1               |
| Ford F-250          | 2               |
| ATV                 | 4               |
| Trailer             | 1               |
| FIMCO Spot Sprayer  | 3               |

ELOS uses hand-controlled sprayers to ensure maximum accuracy when spraying because we are conscious of the Parish's desire for targeted spraying. ELOS utilizes ArcGIS Survey 123 for all GPS based record keeping. It is controlled by the Survey 123 application and is installed on all personnel phones tracking and collecting data, to include photos that are captured by the team. This high-accuracy system allows for more detailed reporting and records than standard GPS systems. This system is also compatible with Google Earth.