

Arti Michelle Clark

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**Education**

B.A. Biology with Honors | | University of Hawai'i, Hilo  
Major: Biology  
Certificate: Tropical Forestry  
Related coursework: Biostatistics, Soil Science, Organic Chemistry

**Professional Experience**

Job Title: Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Agency: Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Location: Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO), Kaua'i Field Station  
Series and Grade: [REDACTED]  
Start / End Date: June 2008 to Present  
Contact Supervisor: Yes  
Supervisor: Aaron Nadig, Phone: (808) 792-9466, Email: [aaron\\_nadig@fws.gov](mailto:aaron_nadig@fws.gov)

- Responsible for providing scientific technical expertise for over 170 federally listed threatened or endangered species, migratory birds, wetlands, habitats and other important fish and wildlife resources to internal and external partners. Serve as technical adviser on nine working committees on topics ranging from species specific to landscape level conservation (2009 to present). Team lead for Kaua'i forest birds and Hawai'i Endangered Bird Conservation Program.
- Prepare briefings for Regional and Headquarter staff visits to Kaua'i. Prepared written correspondence, scientific reports and papers, including:
  - Species Status Assessments for four species of Marianas Snails (2019)
  - Habitat Status Assessment for Hawaiian Islands Wet Forest (2018-2019)
  - Seven 5-year reviews for Kaua'i forest birds, four of which were recommended for delisting because they are presumed extinct (2018-2019)
- Planning and coordination of wide ranging ecological service activities involving over 20 partners on Kaua'i and O'ahu including, federal, state and county agencies, non-profit organizations, private landowners and native Hawaiian organizations which implement Endangered Species Act programs such as, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW), Pacific Islands Coastal and Endangered Species Recovery programs.
- Worked with partners and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff to complete 13 projects related to the conservation of ecosystems and species and ensured the achievement of project objectives (2009-2018). Project lead for four current PFW projects which benefit listed plant species, the Hawaiian hoary bat, native invertebrates and lowland wet and mesic forest ecosystems (2018 to present).
- Provide guidance to FWS staff on PFW program eligibility criteria and required compliance documents. Trained FWS staff and partners in conducting invertebrate surveys (snails, moths and beetles), endangered cave invertebrate surveys, rare plant surveys, weed control and helicopter safety.

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- Serve as Helicopter Manager for PIFWO. Duties include ensuring PIFWO staff are current on aviation training, developing cooperator agreements and aviation safety plans for submittal to the Department of Interior's Office of Aviation Safety and procuring helicopter flights for PIFWO staff.
- Coordinates and facilitates activities pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Environmental Policy Act to deliver over \$3.1 million in FWS funds and matching contributions to implement conservation on over 8,500 acres of important forested habitats for several listed species on Kauai (2009 to present). Identified threats to habitats and species, developed work plans with cooperators to address threats across landscapes. Secured funding for 18 projects which conserve Kauai's biodiversity under the authorities of the Endangered Species and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Acts including 8 under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act. Completed all necessary compliance documents for each project including:
  - Endangered Species Act , Section 7 Informal Consultation
  - National Environmental Policy Act
  - Section 106, National Historical Preservation Act
  - Pesticide Use Proposal Permits
  - Interior Region 12 Hazardous Substance Assessments
- Secured \$80,000 from Interior Region 12's Science Support Program for the project "Assessing and Developing Active Management Strategies for Ambrosia Beetles Associated with Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death", in addition to \$35,000 in match from the USDA Forest Service.
- Conduct outreach and education to the general public, over 3,000 grade school children and college students at three to four annual events on the FWS's mission and local and global resource concerns. Acquired display of 43 confiscated wildlife product items to raise awareness on illegal wildlife trafficking.

**Accomplishment highlights:**

- Region 1 FWS Recovery Champion Award with Team Saving 'Akikiki for preventing the extinction of 'akikiki by creating a secure population in breeding centers (2019).
- Nominated by Governor Ige and confirmed by the Hawai'i State Legislature to serve as the Kaua'i Representative on the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Natural Area Reserves System Commission (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020).
- Recognized as Kauai County Most Valuable Partner (MVP) 2015 by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council and the Hawaii State Legislature for outstanding efforts in coordinating detection and control of mongoose on Kauai and as the Kauai Invasive Species Committee MVP for 2014.
- Implemented Kaua'i's first landscape-level fencing project (2000- acre East Alakai Protective Fence Project) in partnership with the State of Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy and private landowners, which benefits 29 endangered species and protects the islands primary source of freshwater on private and state lands on the Alakai Plateau (2009-2012). Project has led to an additional 6,000 acres of ungulate-proof fencing on Kaua'i.
- FWS Superior Performance Award 2009-2018

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Job Title: Soil Conservationist

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Location: Pacific Islands Area, Līhu‘e Field Office

Series and Grade: [REDACTED]

Start / End Date: September 17, 1999 to June 2008

Contact Supervisor: Yes

Supervisor: Lex Riggle, Phone: (775) 423-5124 Email:lex.riggle@nv.usda.gov

- Provided technical assistance to private landowners in the development, application and maintenance of natural resource management systems.
- Assisted cooperators with selection of appropriate NRCS conservation programs to implement conservation on their lands and processed program applications, determined program eligibility, ranked projects for funding selection, developed and modified contracts and inspected and certified implemented practices for payment.
- Worked with Farm Service Agency and other federal, state and county agencies to ensure that cooperators were in compliance with environmental laws and local regulations.

**Accomplishment highlights:**

- Developed more than 40 conservation plans for over 9,500 acres of agricultural lands and wildlife habitat
- Contracted over \$1,450,000 in NRCS conservation program (EQIP and WHIP), cost-share assistance funds to address resource concerns on Kauai
- Worked with a Kauai Native Plant Society ad hoc committee of three to create an exhibit at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory (USBGC) in Washington D.C. of approximately 60 rare and endangered native Hawaiian plant species. Titled “Our Nation’s Crown Jewels: Rare and Endangered Plants of Hawaii”, the exhibit received over 190,000 visitors and resulted in a permanent exhibition room of native Hawaiian plants at the USBGC (2003-2004).

**Publications**

- Kealiikanakaoleohaililani, K., Sato, A., Giardina, C., Litton, C., Ramavarapu, S., Hutchins, L., Wight, E., Clark, M., Cordell, S., Francisco, K., McMillen, H., Pascua P., Yogi, D. Increasing Conservation Capacity by Embracing Ritual: Kuahu as a Portal to the Sacred. *Submitted, September 30, 2019*. Ecopsychology.
- Clark M., Reeves M., Amidon F. and Miller S. 2019. Hawaiian Islands Wet Forest. Encyclopedia of World Biomes. ed. Deltasala D. A. and Goldstein M. Elsevier.
- Weller S., Sakai A., Clark M., Lorence D., Flynn T., Kishida W., Tangalin N., and Wood K. 2018. The effects of introduced ungulates on native and alien plant species in an island ecosystem: Implications for change in a diverse mesic forest in the Hawaiian Islands. *Forest Ecology and Management*. Vol 409, pp. 518-526
- Kishida, W. and M. Clark. 2014. Shining a Light on Kauai’s Underground Treasures: The No-eyed, Big eyed Wolf Spider and Kauai Cave Amphipod, *Endangered Species Bulletin*, Spring-Summer, 2015 (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/news/episodes/bu-Spring-Summer2014/story3/>)

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- Clark, Michelle. 2012. New Discoveries Bring Hope for Garden Isles Rare Flora, Endangered Species Bulletin, November-December, 2012 (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/news/Nov-Dec2012.html>)

### **Conference Presentations**

- Clark, M. Raine, A., Behnke L., Crampton L., Fisher, M. and Menard T. Helicopters, sling-loads and ladders: Conservation in Action on Kauai, Hawa‘i Conservation Conference 2018.
- Clark, M. Crampton, Masuda, B., L., Hite J., and Laut M. “In Situ and Ex Situ Conservation of Two Critically Endangered Forest Bird Species”. Hawai‘i Conservation Conference 2017.
- Clark, M., B. Pang, D. Ball, C. Perry, T. Menard and J. Higashino. Advancing Landscape-Scale Conservation in a Changing Climate through Public - Private Partnerships, IUCN World Conservation Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2016.
- Kawika Winter and Michelle Clark. Bio-cultural Resource Conservation: Installation of a hunter-supported ungulate fence for endangered species protection in a traditionally-accessed forest on Kauai, Hawaii Conservation Conference, Hilo, Hawaii, 2015
- Menard, T. C., L. Behnke, T. Menard, J. Sumiye and M. Clark. Herbicide Use Amounts in The Nature Conservancy’s Wainiha Preserve and in the East Alakai During 2012, 2013, and 2014, Hawaii Conservation Conference, Hilo Hawaii, 2015

### **Professional Development and Training**

- Halau Ōhi‘a Professional and Personal Development Program which seeks to integrate indigenous knowledge with western science (2018 to present)
- Helicopter Manager Training: A-100 Basic Aviation Safety, A-109 Aviation Radio Use, A-112 Mission Planning and Flight Request Process, A-115 Automated Flight Following, A-116 General Awareness Security Training, A-200 Mishap Review, A-204 Aircraft Capabilities and Limitations, A-205 Risk Management 1, A-209 Helicopter Operations (2018)
- Native Hawaiian Law Training, University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law (2016)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Stepping Up to Leadership Program (2016)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Basic Financial Assistance (2015)
- Five week detail at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s, Office of International Affairs in Washington D.C (2014).
- DOI Interagency Consultation for Endangered Species (2013)