Hand-Clearing, Low Impact Land Clearing, and Excavation

Many of these individuals clear with chain saws and hand tools and can be more surgical than machinery in clearing, leaving behind native forest vegetation. Some of the resource people listed are arborists or tree removal contractors who can expertly bring down difficult-to-remove trees with minimal damage to adjacent resources or structures. Light machinery may be needed as follow-up to tree cutting if tree stumps need to be removed. A suggestion for tree cutting is that the landowner marks the trees to be felled and also plants to be protected during clearing operations.

Hand Clearing

Dave's Tree Service (Dave Frederick) - 968-7194
Cuts, trims, and removes even the most challenging trees without damaging structures or other vegetation. Licensed contractor.

Backyard Monkey (Justin Barrios) – 345-8653
Hand-clearing, tree removal and trimming, and landscaping.

Low Impact Machine Clearing

Marvin Hurst – 967-7734 Has small dozer for careful land clearing. Excellent skills, maneuverability and will preserve native vegetation.

Hank Banquer – 990-5419 hbanquer@earthlink.net Low-impact land clearing, invasive species removal using mini dozer and mobile chipper (up to 8” diam). Stamp removal using small backhoe. Chipping services - bring the chipper to the brush not the brush to the chipper! Holes drilled in lava rock up to 36” diam. by 10’ deep.

Dalyn Grap – 987-3498 eherb@hawaii.rr.com Licensed landscape contractor. Has small excavator for avoiding native plants and careful clearing.

Link’s Service & Excavation/Backhoe (Lincoln Pascual) – 966-6512 Will do careful land clearing with minimal removal of native vegetation.

Moore Excavation (Nick Moore) 960-4784 Business: 967-7279 Has small excavator for careful clearing.

Invasive Weed Control, Landscaping & Design

A forest with a dense understory of kahili ginger, strawberry guava, or tibouchina is a forest without a future. When the native trees and shrubs age and die, the mat of invasive weeds prevents native plants replacing themselves.

The contacts below can remove your unwanted invasives to let the forest recover, while taking care not to harm native plants. Others listed below can help you plan a forest restoration project or design a pleasing landscape compatible with native forest.

If you want to control the invasive weeds by yourself, the VCA sponsors workshops on how to control Volcano’s weeds, using both chemical and non-chemical methods. In addition, a comprehensive guide to Volcano weed control will be posted on the VCA website at www.volcanocommunity.org.

Hunter Beyer – 967-8058 Will design permaculture gardens and landscapes; landscaping and landscape maintenance including native vegetation.

Marvin Hurst – 967-7734 Has small dozer ideal for tibouchina clearing.


Mary Lee Knapstad – 985-9190 Careful hand clearing of invasive plants; landscape maintenance.

Got Natives! Zoe Thorne 967-8209 – plantnatives@hawaiiantel.net Consultations on native plant landscaping.

Volcano Tree Service - Shawn Page 365-4003 - Shawn is a certified arborist & tree surgeon specializing in difficult take-downs, tree pruning and risk assessment.

Carpentry & Landscaping by Crispin Boulter – 985-9535 - hophornbeam@live.com - 20+ years experience providing reliable, affordable carpentry, landscaping & maintenance.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

There are ways to reduce waste when building. From trees and brush to used or unused building materials, try the contacts below before hauling anything to the landfill. Recycle Hawai‘i www.recyclehawaii.org is a rich source of recycling information for the island.

Don Burandt - 967-7167 Cuts and hauls medium-to-large trees free. Dries the wood and sells it for firewood.

Frecycle Hawaii - Sign up for free at: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleBigIsland Access this user-friendly network if you have something you do not need or need something you do not have.

Kea’au Recycle Reuse Center - 895-6776 Accepts usable construction leftovers (lumber, paint, hardware, etc.) from non-commercial sources. Located in Kea’au on Hwy 130 next to the Hawaii Humane Society in Kea’au.

For more information:

Kea’au, Hawai‘i 96785-0600
email: vca@volcanocommunity.org
website: www.volcanocommunity.org

PLEASE NOTE: The VCA does not guarantee nor explicitly endorse the work of anyone listed in this insert. The information in this brochure was compiled by the Forest Education Committee of the Volcano Community Association
Printed on recycled paper, October 2014.

Resources for Building in the Forest

Hunting for land with care may seem more troublesome than clear-cutting. However, the investment of planning is more than repaid by the privacy, beauty, and the sense of satisfaction that you are personally helping to perpetuate our native forest.

The individuals listed here are experienced in clearing land with care, removing unwanted invasive weeds, and maintaining landscapes in a forest environment. However, at every stage of clearing for building, restoring the forest landscape, and designing and building, the home owner must be in charge and make his or her wishes clearly known to land clearers, landscapers, designers, and builders.

Fencing

Tired of feral pigs digging up your forest?

Keali’ Bio – 987-4701 - bio.logical@gmail.com Builds the straightest, pig-proof fences.

Volcano Community Association
PO Box 600
Volcano, Hawai‘i 96785-0600
email: vca@volcanocommunity.org
website: www.volcanocommunity.org

Young koa tree
Help with Designing Forest-Friendly Homes, Identifying Plants & Forest Restoration.

Knowledgeable volunteers from the Volcano Community Association can arrange tours of homes in Volcano that are integrated into the forest, identify native and alien plant species, help with salvaging native plants in cleared areas, and provide consultations on forest restoration. Contact Tim Tunison at 769-7258 or tim@volcanoplantguy.com, to coordinate assistance. The VCA is also sponsoring workshops in weed control, native plant propagation, and native forest restoration. Look for dates and times in the center of the Volcano Community News, “The Voice,” and eBlasts.

Conservation Easements to Protect Forest

Conservation Easements are a strategy for giving permanent legal protection for forested properties. An owner needs to arrange this with the Hawaii Islands Land Trust. It involves relinquishing the right of present and future owners to develop selected parts of a property. Volcano currently has two small property easements, and several more are likely to be granted soon. Contact www.hilt.org for more information.

Identifying Native Trees & Plants

Before clearing land, call VCA's Native Forest Committee (see panel to the left) to arrange for a trained volunteer to help you identify, tag, and/or rescue native species and to point out invasives that should be removed.

Native Plant Landscapers

Homescapes - Hunter Beyer - 967-8058
Permaculture: extensive knowledge of native and non-native plants. Ha`pu`u rescue. Available for consultation and education.

Native Forest Restoration - Tim Tunison - 769-7258 tim@volcanoplantguy.com
Consultations, plant identification, weed control advice and restoration planning based on over two decades of forest restoration experience at Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park.

Zoe Thorne - 967-8209 Consultations about species selection and planting locations. Worked with Hawai`i National Park creating mini-native ecosystems.

Uluhe Design - Mitzi Messick - 965-5624 email: uluhe design@yahoo.com Full range of landscape design and pre-design including site analysis, design & schematics.

Native Plant Nurseries

Several small, “backyard” nurseries in Volcano and upper Puna are now growing upland native plants suitable for Volcano.

Big Island Plants - Kim Dillman 985-8596 kim@bigislandplants.com. Specializing in native rainforest species appropriate for Volcano to Mountain View with some Ka`u and Kona species appropriate for the VGCC.

David Matteci – 967-8350. Fledgling Volcano nursery with native plants appropriate to Volcano. By arrangement; call David.


Lehua Lena Nursery – Allie Atkins – 966-7975. In Ke`a`u but has many native plant species appropriate for Volcano. Leave message.

Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden – 323-3318. Sells mostly lowland species but has some native plants appropriate for Volcano environment, especially the Golf Course neighborhood. Nursery: 323.8202 Email: agg@bishopmuseum.org

Try These Plants for Color

If you want more color in your yard than most native plants provide, these non-invasive ornamentals: Vireya (tropical rhododendron), camellia, hydrangea, azalea, or native hibiscus. Keep in mind that planting them throughout your forest understory may preclude natural regeneration of native trees, shrubs, and ferns. You can have both a self-sustaining native forest and colorful ornamentals if you clump the latter species in a visible place where you can enjoy the color.

Clearing for Fire Safety

If you live in the rain forest and your property is covered mostly with native `ohi`a and/or tree ferns, the chances of fire coming onto your property are remote. However, if uluhe (false staghorn fern) is dominant, it will become flammable during drought and should be cleared away from structures as a precaution. Those who live in the Volcano Golf Course community are more vulnerable to wildland fire because of the drier weather and abundance of grasses, shrubs, and faya tree. For information about clearing for fire danger, while preserving native vegetation, see the VCA website: www.volcanocommunity.org.

Designing Your House to Fit into the Forest

Package homes sold in Hawai`i and houses typically designed by local architects and builders are usually adapted for suburban landscapes and may not be forest-friendly. Work closely with your draftsman or architect and your builder from the start to assure your home design is forest-friendly. Here are some design features for houses that fit well in the forest:

* Multiple levels to minimize footprint.
* Skylights, preferably double-pane, to let in light from above, where it is most available in a forest setting.
* Lots of window surface, especially on the south-side, to maximize light and solar heating.
* Double-pane windows throughout.
* Overhangs kept to a minimum to avoid shading your windows.
* Slab foundation on flat surfaces for warmth and post and pier on sloping terrain to minimize grading.
* Insulation in walls and ceiling and a vapor barrier house wrap on walls.
* Insulation under floor in post and pier construction.
* Decks or lanais to extend living space into the environment, avoiding or incorporating trees into their design.