

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Best of Feature Analyst® 2003 Award to The Nature Conservancy

MISSOULA, Montana – Visual Learning Systems, Inc. (VLS) is proud to award the Best of Feature Analyst 2003 prize to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for its shallow-marine oyster bed mapping project. TNC's research team used Feature Analyst with high resolution hyperspectral imagery and LIDAR data to effectively map oyster reefs in the southeastern United States. Key to TNC's success was using the hierarchical learning functionality in Feature Analyst to "exploit the subtle spectral differences between shellfish beds and mud flats which had previously been very difficult to separate" stated TNC Project Leader Dr. Steven Schill. "The program [Feature Analyst] performed well on both patch and fringing reef habitats providing a much higher degree of accuracy than traditional manual classification and was executed in a fraction of the time."

Feature Analyst is the world's premier feature extraction and classification tool supporting a wide variety of geographic information systems (GIS) mapping applications worldwide. The annual Best of Feature Analyst competition recognizes excellence in feature extraction applications that support geospatial data acquisition and object-extraction from imagery. This year's competition was particularly noteworthy due to the number and quality of feature extraction solutions submitted by users for Transportation, Forestry, Local Government, and Environmental Management applications. Best of Feature Analyst 2003 Honorable Mention awards went to:

- GeoSyntec Corporation for developing a geospatial database to be used for prioritizing sub-watersheds for potential BMP projects in Santa Barbara, California.
- Native Communities Development Corporation (NCDC) for developing a wildfire risk analysis of the wildland urban interface in Boulder, Colorado.
- North Carolina's Center for Geographic Information and Analysis for establishing a program to process and analyze image data to meet the GIS needs of state and local government agencies.

About VLS

Visual Learning Systems, Inc. (VLS) is a worldwide leader in feature extraction and image understanding solutions. The VLS flagship software product Feature Analyst is used worldwide for GIS database management and mapping applications supporting Defense and Intelligence, Homeland Security, Local Government, Forestry, Agriculture, Transportation, and Environmental projects. With over 4,000 licenses sold the past year alone, Feature Analyst is being used in all 50 U.S. States, over 50 countries, and nearly 100 universities. Fitting within existing workflows, Feature Analyst is an extension to ESRI's ArcGIS suite, ERDAS IMAGINE®, and soon BAE's SOCET SET®. VLS, recently awarded the 2004 ESRI New Partner of the Year, develops and sells Feature Analyst, provides professional training and feature extraction services, and offers customized programming. Download a free evaluation copy of Feature Analyst at www.featureanalyst.com.