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### **Best of Feature Analyst® 2004 Awarded to NCDC**

Missoula, Mont. – Visual Learning Systems, Inc. (VLS) is proud to award the Best of Feature Analyst 2004 prize to the Native Communities Development Corp. for its effort to manage the spread of Tamarisk, a non-native shrub that has overrun the banks of the Arkansas River.

Government agencies in Kearney County, Kan., recruited NCDC to initiate preventative measures by surveying the infested area. NCDC specializes in the use of high-resolution satellite imagery for invasive plant detection, wildfire risk assessment and emergency planning.

NCDC created detailed maps using Feature Analyst and QuickBird imagery to assess 32 miles of the threatened riverbank. After creating a precedent of mapping and monitoring for Kearney County, NCDC expects to control the spread of the shrub.

The plant species, Tamarisk, presents a serious wildfire threat while impeding wildlife access to the river. In addition, large Tamarisk shrubs dry-up water sources by lowering water tables, thus jeopardizing human water resources.

#### **About VLS**

Visual Learning Systems, Inc. is an international leader in automated mapping solutions. Feature Analyst, the VLS flagship software product, is used worldwide for GIS database management and mapping applications supporting Homeland Security, Education, Environmental projects and more. As an extension to ERDAS IMAGINE®, SOCET SET® and the ArcGIS™ suite, Feature Analyst is used in every U.S. state, in over 50 countries and 100 universities. Download a free evaluation copy of Feature Analyst at [www.featureanalyst.com](http://www.featureanalyst.com).

#### **About NCDC**

The Native Communities Development Corp. is a Native American-owned enterprise which provides services to Native American and Alaskan Native communities, as well as to rural, state and federal agencies concerned with the assessment, planning and management of natural and cultural resources. For more information, please visit: [www.ncdcimaging.com](http://www.ncdcimaging.com).