



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY  
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

# Biology Seminar

## Managing Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) Using Restorative Methods

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Invasive species are nonnative species that cause economic or environmental harm and/or harm to human health. These species threaten native habitats and their inhabitants by changing key ecosystem functions, causing a decline in native biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, and a great economic loss due to the cost of preventing and managing them. At Camp Ripley Military Training Site, spotted knapweed is just one of the known invaders that is causing environmental harm and spreading quickly. This research experiment will test the hypothesis that native grasses will be able to compete with and reduce the spread of the resident spotted knapweed population. While traditional methods of control aim to simply eliminate an invasive species from a habitat, this study's purpose is to integrate habitat restoration into a spotted knapweed management plan to re-fill open niches and restore the invaded site back to a native prairie.