A collection of trees is referred to as a stand. Tree scientists measure the density of stands by determining the number of trees in a given area. This allows them to determine if thinning is necessary and if any trees should be harvested.

To measure the density of a stand:

- Explore your school, neighborhood, or nearby park for a stand
- Count the number of trees in the stand
- Determine the area (ft²) of the stand (length multiplied by the width)
- Divide the number of trees by the area (ft²) and this will equal the stand’s density

\[
\text{Number of Trees} \div \text{Area (ft²)} = \text{SDI (Stand Density Index)}
\]

Based on the density of the stand, what forest management methods would you use to make sure it is a healthy working forest? Explain your answer.

**Thinning - by selectively harvesting trees, the remaining trees have more room to grow and receive more sunlight**