

Salmon streams and black bears in Kitsap

This time of the year, the black bears are having a berry good time, but when September rolls around salmon will be the food of choice. Salmon will be in our streams from September to January. This is a great time to view bears. They are on the move and on a mission to fatten up for the winter by eating salmon. They do not hibernate here in this area, just rest and go out for a walk on warm days in the winter. I know our local schools lock up like Fort Knox when a bear walks through the parking lot and looks at the bear as Godzilla! For the most part, black bears are not aggressive. You will smell them before you see them. They smell like a wet dog. Their eyesight is somewhat poor, but their sense of smell is excellent. If you ever get close to a bear, they will let you know. They will woof at you and when that happens, just back up and move out of the area slowly, (don't run), especially if it is a sow (female

TREEMENDOUS TREES

By **JIM TRAINER**



with cubs). I have seen bears in this county that are more than 500 pounds. The boar (male) walks with a swagger and his ears are farther apart and larger than the female. Bear sounds are moans, groans, woofs and teeth clicking. Bears live in dens such as old tree blow downs

and root wads in the forest. Please bear with me on this subject. There is one disease bears suffer from and that is WDS (wildlife displacement syndrome) caused by humans

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Courtesy photo

Black bears will soon be taking to the streams of Kitsap in search of salmon.

BEARS

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and development. A 25-foot wildlife buffer will "bearly" suffice for our bear population here in Kitsap.

BEAR TRACKS

4 inches	100 pounds
5 inches	100-125 pounds
6 inches	125-200 pounds
7 inches	200-300 pounds
8 inches	300-400 pounds
9 inches	400-500 pounds
10 inches	You do not want to know

Jim Trainer is a local community forester and the owner of Treez, Inc. He appears the last Saturday of the month in the CK Reporter.