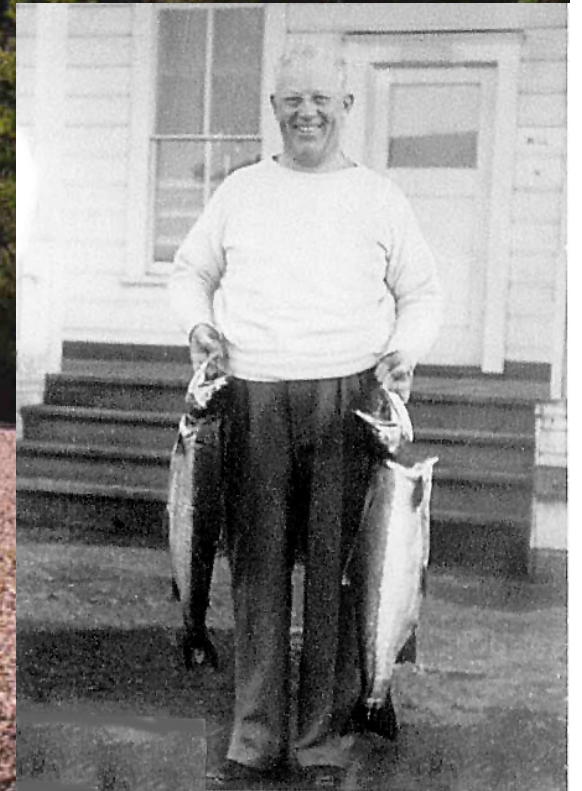
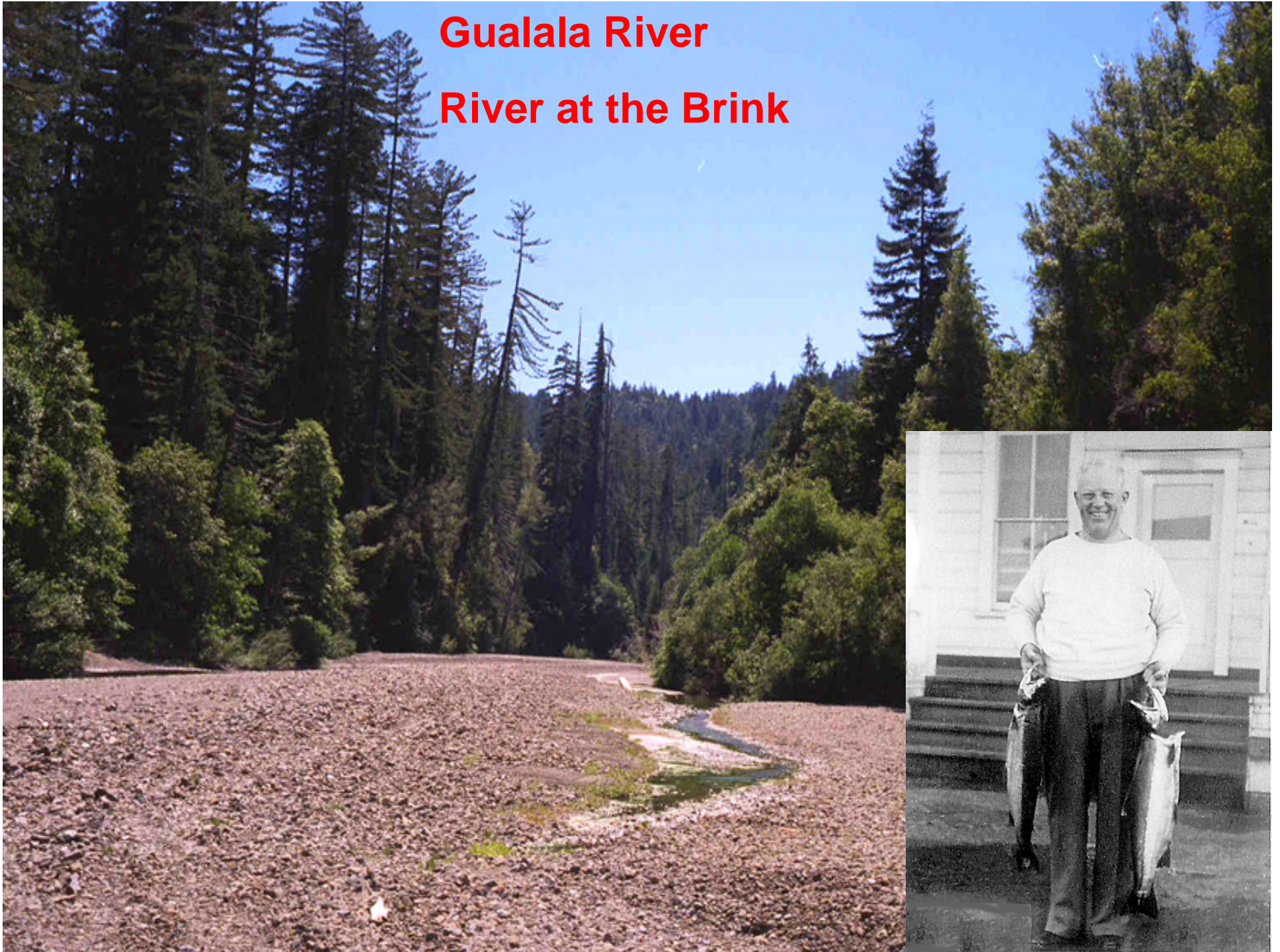


**Gualala River**  
**River at the Brink**



Historic photo (circa 1904) of the lower Gualala River shows a deep and wide channel ideal for salmon and steelhead habitat as well as for boating. Photo courtesy Heald-Poage Museum, Ukiah, CA.

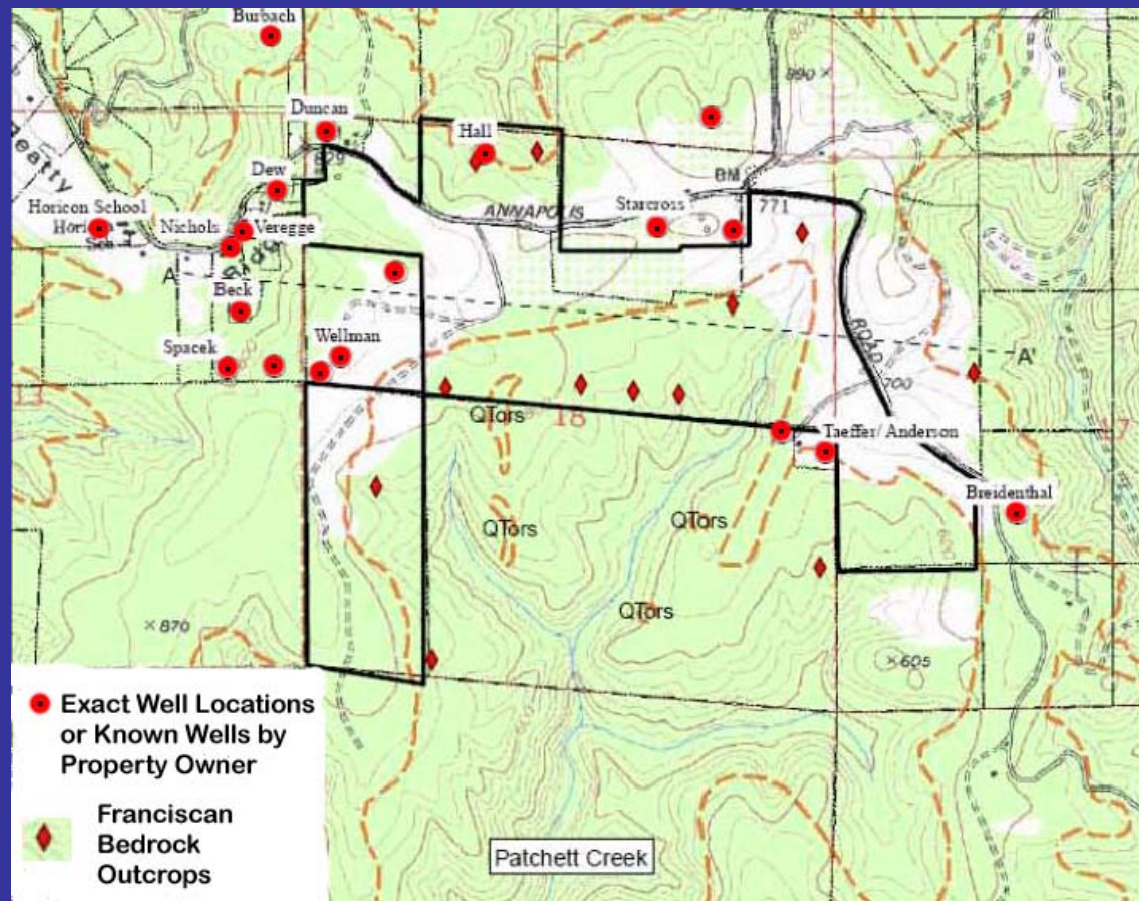


**Gualala River channel looking upstream in February 2003 with extremely high sediment yield causing restricted channel depth and complexity, which greatly compromises public trust values and opportunities.**





**The Gualala's Wheatfield Fork, just upstream of its convergence with the South Fork, ran underground in 2001. Although the sediment build up in the Wheatfield Fork is a factor contributing to lack of surface flows, water diversion for several vineyards and rural residential use exacerbate the problem.**



The above USGS topo map shows well locations (red circles) and owners near the proposed Artesa Vineyard (black outline). These wells likely deplete flows to steelhead producing Patchett Creek, including some to the west of the project (upper left) due to sloping subsurface bedrock formations. Tile drains installed under vineyards also disrupt groundwater recharge.



**If you want to help save the Gualala River, support or become active in the Friends of Gualala River ([www.gualalariver.org/](http://www.gualalariver.org/)).**