Park Observer Protocol: Loons Monitoring

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Obtain PO2 at https://akrgis.nps.gov/apps/observer/downloads2/ and follow the installation instructions

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Installing a new obsprot (Park Observer 2.0 field data collection protocol) on an ipad

Introduction

A Park Observer Protocol, hereafter referred to as an obsprot, defines a field data collection model. See https://akrgis.nps.gov/apps/observer/index.html for detailed information.

Load the obsprot into Park Observer

Open ipad and connect to computer. Start itunes. Ensure the ipad and itunes are communicating. In itunes clice File Sharing. Select Park Observer 2.0. Drag or navigate to your obprot. Ensure it appears in the list of Park Observer Documents. Click Sync.

Test the new obsprot

Open Park Observer 2.0 (PO2) Tap the circle thingie in the upper left corner. The new obsprot should appear under Protocols: Create a new survey.

Starting a new loons survey

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obsprot development/editing

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The main PO2 website has a little information on developing a new obsprot. Unfortunately, the information is scant and trial and error and studying the sample obsprots is really the only way to learn.
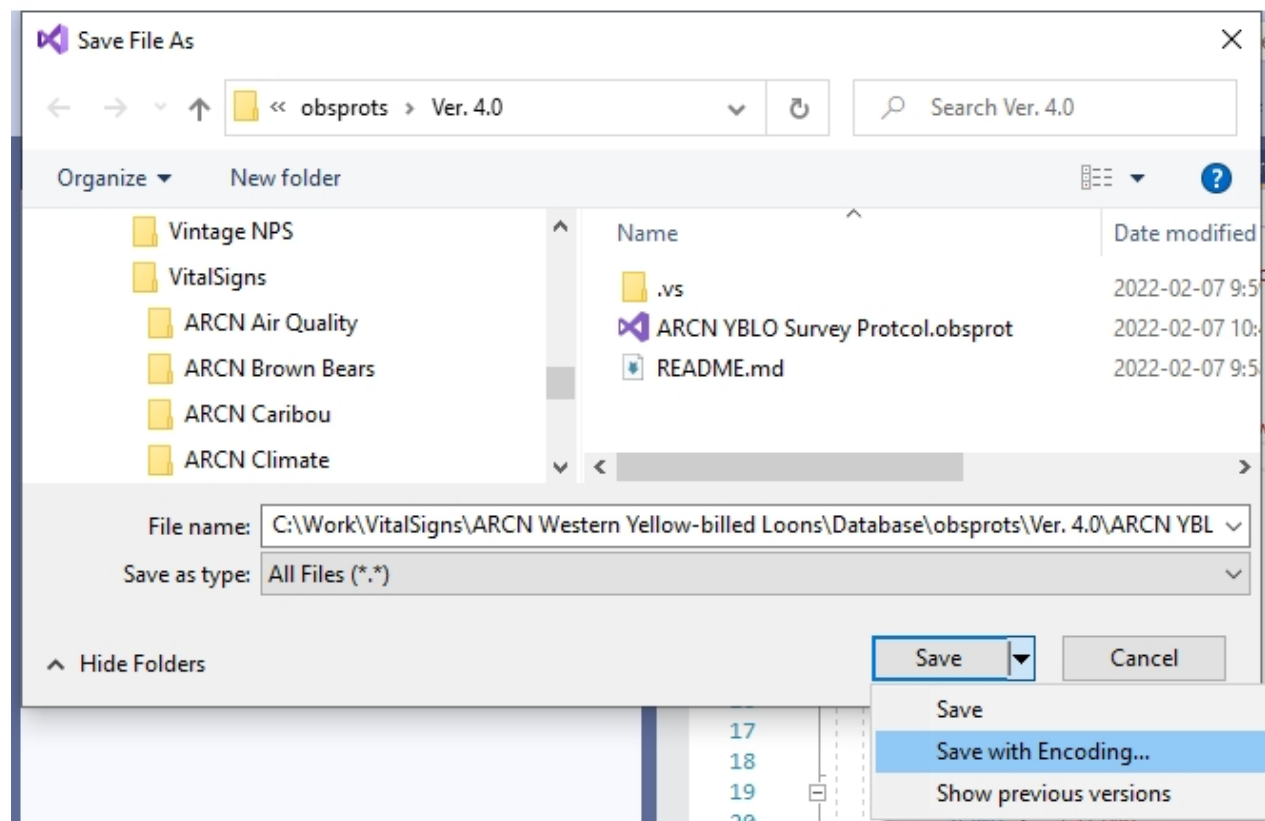
See https://akrgis.nps.gov/apps/observer/specs/Protocol_Specification_V2.html.

Tips

- The code must be perfect. Error messages are usually arcane and unhelpful.
- Validate the JSON before testing.

Encoding as UTF-8

The PO2 protocol development documentation states that obsprots should be encoded as UTF-8. Here is how I encoded it using Visual Studio. I did a Save as... and in the lower right corner next to the Save button there is an up arrow that allows you to change the encoding. Select UTF-8 With Signature (I actually don't know what the signature part is but this is what I read on the internet).