STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL FINDS 18 WILDLIFE OFFICERS ENGAGED IN WRONGFUL ACTIVITY
Columbus, Ohio, December 13, 2013

The inspector general issued a report of investigation today which found 18 employees from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife acted wrongfully.

The initiative began as the inspector general completed an earlier investigation which resulted in the criminal prosecution and conviction of two Ohio Department of Natural Resources wildlife officers who were deer hunting while on duty in Brown County.

Suspecting the activities might be more than an isolated incident, the inspector general launched a review of the timekeeping records for the days when any of the 490 employees at the division of wildlife reported harvesting a deer. The timekeeping records for 18 wildlife employees contained conflicting information which showed wrongful activity: either the employee was on-duty while engaged in deer hunting activities, or off-duty and falsifying work records to obtain pay they were not entitled to receive.

Prosecuting attorneys in several Ohio counties have been provided the report of investigation for further consideration: Adams, Belmont, Butler, Champaign, Columbiana, Defiance, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Geauga, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Mercer, Sandusky, Stark, Vinton, and Wyandot.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2012-CA00061 is now available at:
http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2013Investigations.aspx

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