



STATE OF OHIO  
**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

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RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATES COMPLAINT OF REMOVAL OF LOGS BY PARK OFFICER AT DILLON STATE PARK  
Columbus, Ohio, January 22, 2015

The inspector general has completed an investigation of a complaint received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources indicating a state park officer may have removed, for personal use, several large-diameter logs from trees cut at Dillon State Park. Ohio Department of Natural Resources policy prohibits state park employees from taking personal possession of any type of timber from state parks.

Relying upon statements made by Ohio Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees, the inspector general found evidence to support the allegation. A witness observed Park Officer Douglas Lindsley, who was not on duty or in a park officer uniform at the time, using a chain saw on a downed tree in a park area where 20 or more trees had been felled a few days earlier by state employees. Another witness saw Lindsley and another unidentified helper using a skid steer loader to place logs, which had been cut to sizes of 8 to 10 feet in length, on a trailer. Some of the trees which had been cut down were described as having diameters of up to 30 inches.

Neither the skid steer loader nor the trailer appeared to be owned by the government, and a witness said the pickup truck attached to the trailer hauling the skid steer loader was the same color and make as one driven by Lindsley.

The report of investigation will be provided to the Muskingum County Prosecuting Attorney for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2014-CA00027 is now available at:  
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations.aspx>

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