

# The Why and How of MLP Investing

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# **Current Reality and Session Objective**

- Current Reality
  - MLPs may be suitable for a wide variety of client portfolios
  - Number of MLPs and MLP investment vehicles is constantly on the rise
  - Challenging to navigate the increasingly complicated landscape
- Session Objective
  - Provide a refresher on the <u>value proposition of MLPs</u>
  - Explain <u>investment vehicle suitability</u> given return and risk objectives

# **About Alerian**

- Equip investors to make <u>informed decisions</u> about MLPs
- Launched the <u>first real-time MLP index</u> in 2006
- Over <u>\$21 billion directly linked</u> to the Alerian Index Series
- <u>Exclusively or primarily referenced</u> in MLP coverage by...
  - MLP management teams in their investor presentations
  - MLP boards of directors in their compensation analyses
  - Sell-side analysts in their research reports
  - Buy-side managers in their client letters and attribution analyses
  - National media in their MLP articles

## Why MLPs: Total Return

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 YTD	Annualized
REITs	Commodities	REITs	Commodities	Bonds	MLPs	MLPs	Utilities	REITs	Small Cap	MLPs	MLPs
38.1%	25.6%	35.6%	32.7%	5.2%	76.4%	35.9%	19.9%	18.0%	38.8%	21.4%	17.0%
Utilities	Utilities	Non-US	Utilities	Utilities	Non-US	Small Cap	MLPs	Non-US	S&P 500	REITs	Utilities
24.3%	16.8%	26.3%	19.4%	-29.0%	31.8%	26.9%	13.9%	17.3%	32.4%	21.3%	9.8%
Non-US	REITs	MLPs	MLPs	Small Cap	REITs	REITs	REITs	Small Cap	MLPs	Utilities	Small Cap
20.2%	13.7%	26.1%	12.7%	-33.8%	27.6%	26.7%	9.4%	16.3%	27.6%	16.1%	9.4%
Small Cap	Non-US	Utilities	Non-US	MLPs	Small Cap	S&P 500	Bonds	S&P 500	Non-US	S&P 500	REITs
18.3%	13.5%	21%	11.2%	-36.9%	27.2%	15.1%	7.8%	16.0%	22.8%	9.9%	9.0%
Commodities	MLPs	Small Cap	Bonds	S&P 500	S&P 500	Commodities	S&P 500	MLPs	Utilities	Bonds	S&P 500
17.3%	6.3%	18.4%	7.0%	-37.0%	26.5%	9.0%	2.1%	4.8%	13.2%	4.8%	8.4%
MLPs	S&P 500	S&P 500	S&P 500	REITs	Commodities	Non-US	Commodities	Bonds	REITs	Non-US	Non-US
16.7%	4.9%	15.8%	5.5%	-37.3%	13.5%	7.8%	-1.2%	4.2%	-0.5%	2.6%	7.0%
S&P 500	Small Cap	Bonds	Small Cap	Non-US	Utilities	Bonds	Small Cap	Utilities	Commodities	Small Cap	Bonds
10.9%	4.6%	4.3%	-1.6%	-43.4%	11.9%	6.5%	-4.2%	1.3%	-1.2%	1.8%	4.7%
Bonds	Bonds	Commodities	REITs	Commodities	Bonds	Utilities	Non-US	Commodities	Bonds	Commodities	Commodities
4.3%	2.4%	-15.1%	-16.3%	-46.5%	5.9%	5.5%	-12.1%	0.1%	-2.0%	-1.5%	-0.9%

#### **Why MLPs: Income**



## Why MLPs: Energy Renaissance



## Why MLPs: Energy Infrastructure



### Why MLPs: Real Assets



# Why MLPs: In Words

- Growth of US energy infrastructure
  - MLPs operate transportation, processing, and storage assets
- Stable and growing cash flows
  - Energy infrastructure business models resemble that of toll roads
  - Average annual distribution growth of 7% over the last 10 years
- Tax efficiency
  - No entity-level taxation if 90% of income is from qualifying sources
  - Higher payout ratios and lower cost of capital than C corporations
  - 70%-100% of income is tax-deferred return of capital

## **Investment Options**

Investment Type	Direct	Separately	Exchange-Traded Note	Exchange-Traded Fund		Open-End Mutual Fund		Closed-End Fund	
		Managed Account		100% MLP	<25% MLP	100% MLP	<25% MLP	100% MLP	<25% MLP
Tax Classification	Partnership	Partnership Partnership		Taxable "C" Corp	Non-Taxable "M" Corp	Taxable "C" Corp	Non-Taxable "M" Corp	Taxable "C" Corp	Non-Taxable "M" Corp
Return of Capital Flow-Through <sup>1</sup>	70%-100%	70%-100%	No	70%-100%	Varies <sup>2</sup>	70%-100%	Varies <sup>2</sup>	70%-100%	Varies <sup>2</sup>
Tax Treatment	0%-30% Ordinary Income			0%-30% Qualified Dividend	Varies <sup>2</sup>	0%-30% Qualified Dividend	Varies <sup>2</sup>	0%-30% Qualified Dividend	Varies <sup>2</sup>
Tax Form	Form K-1	Form K-1	Form 1099	Form 1099	Form 1099	Form 1099	Form 1099	Form 1099	Form 1099
IRA/401k Eligible	Taxable Beyond \$1,000 in UBTI <sup>3</sup>	Taxable Beyond \$1,000 in UBTI <sup>3</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leverage	No	No	No <sup>4</sup>	No	No	No <sup>5</sup>	No	Up to 33%	Up to 33%
Liquidity	Intraday	Varies	Intraday	Intraday	Intraday	Daily	Daily	Intraday	Intraday
First Fund Launched	N/A	N/A	Jul 2007	Aug 2010	Jun 2012	Mar 2010	Sep 2010	Feb 2004	Jun 2005
Total Funds	N/A	N/A	16	6	3	14	12	22	10
AUM (\$ MM)	N/A	N/A	\$12.1B	\$10.1B	\$1.1B	\$18.58	\$4.1B	\$19.4B	\$4.8B

## **Direct Investment**

- Tax Classification: Partnership
- Initial Return of Capital (ROC): 70%-100%
- Non-ROC Tax Treatment: 0%-30% Ordinary Income
- Tax Form: Schedule K-1
- IRA/401(k) Eligible: Taxable Beyond \$1,000 of UBTI
- Leverage: No
- Liquidity: Intraday

## **Direct Investment**

- Suitability
  - US taxable investor
  - Familiar with K-1s and state tax filings
  - Comfortable building and managing a portfolio

### **History of MLP IPOs**





### **TTM Return Dispersion**



# **Building Your Own Portfolio**

- Management
  - Do the CEO and COO have a long-term view around their business?
  - Do executives admit when they made mistakes in judgment?
  - Do you hold the same equity interest as management and/or the sponsor?
- Growth
  - Is the MLP's growth driven by organic projects or acquisitions?
  - How competitive is the MLP's cost of capital (IDR tax, credit ratings)?
- Risks
  - Do the MLP's leverage and coverage ratios allow for a margin of error?
  - How diversified (by geography, hydrocarbon) are the MLP's operations?

# Separately Managed Account (SMA)

- Tax Classification: Partnership
- Initial Return of Capital (ROC): 70%-100%
- Non-ROC Tax Treatment: 0%-30% Ordinary Income
- Tax Form: Schedule K-1
- IRA/401(k) Eligible: Taxable Beyond \$1,000 of UBTI
- Leverage: No
- Liquidity: Varies

# Separately Managed Account (SMA)

- Suitability
  - Large, US taxable investor
  - Not familiar with K-1s and state tax filings
  - Not comfortable building and managing a portfolio
  - Comfortable with potential liquidity constraints
  - Willing to pay fees for back office and portfolio management

#### **Access Product Launches**



## **Exchange-Traded Product AUM Growth**



# C Corp Open-End Fund AUM Growth



## **C** Corp Closed-End Fund AUM Growth



# Exchange-Traded Note (ETN)

- Tax Classification: Forward Contract
- Return of Capital (ROC): 0%
- Non-ROC Tax Treatment: 100% Ordinary Income
- Tax Form: Form 1099
- IRA/401(k) Eligible: Yes with Section 1260 Ambiguity
- Leverage: No (Except MLPL)
- Liquidity: Intraday
- First Note: Jul 2007
- Current Market: 16 Notes, \$12.1 Billion

# Exchange-Traded Note (ETN)

- Suitability
  - Tax-advantaged investor
  - Taxable, total return investor
  - Preference toward or mandate favoring lower expense ratios
  - Preference toward minimal tracking error
  - Comfortable with Section 1260 ambiguity
  - Comfortable with financial institution credit risk

## C Corporation 1940 Act Fund

- Tax Classification: Taxable C Corporation
- Initial Return of Capital (ROC): 70%-100%
- Non-ROC Tax Treatment: 0%-30% Qualified Dividend
- Tax Form: Form 1099
- IRA/401(k) Eligible: Yes
- Leverage: No (ETF), No (Except MLPLX) (OEF), Up to 33% (CEF)
- Liquidity: Intraday (ETF), Daily (OEF), Intraday (CEF)
- First Fund: Aug 2010 (ETF), Mar 2010 (OEF), Feb 2004 (CEF)
- Current Market: 42 Funds, \$48.0 Billion

# C Corporation 1940 Act Fund

- Suitability
  - Taxable investor seeking after-tax yield
  - Low volatility investor
  - Preference toward ownership of underlying MLPs
  - Understanding of deferred tax liability (DTL) impact on fund

# "RIC-Compliant" 1940 Act Fund

- Tax Classification: Non-Taxable M Corporation
- Initial Return of Capital (ROC): Up to 25%
- Non-ROC Tax Treatment: Varies
- Tax Form: Form 1099
- IRA/401(k) Eligible: Yes
- Leverage: No (ETF), No (OEF), Up to 33% (CEF)
- Liquidity: Intraday (ETF), Daily (OEF), Intraday (CEF)
- First Fund: Jun 2012 (ETF), Sep 2010 (OEF), Jun 2004 (CEF)
- Current Market: 25 Funds, \$10.0 Billion

# "RIC-Compliant" 1940 Act Fund

- Suitability
  - Tax-advantaged investor
  - Taxable, total return investor
  - Preference toward ownership of underlying MLPs
  - Preference toward minimal tracking error
  - Comfortable with 25% cap on MLP holdings
  - Understanding of fund composition for the remaining 75% of assets

# "RIC-Compliant" 1940 Act Fund

- Other Holdings
  - MLP Exchange-Traded Notes
  - MLP Affiliates
  - Power: Renewables, Independent Power Producers, Utilities
  - Shipping: Dry Bulk, Oil Tankers, Liquefied Natural Gas
  - Energy: Exploration & Production, Offshore Drilling, Refining



#### **Decision Tree**



## **Other Considerations**

- 79% of MLPs have an adjusted market cap of less than \$3 billion
  - 66% of MLPs have an adjusted market cap of less than \$2 billion
- 70% of MLPs trade less than \$10 million per day
  - 54% of MLPs trade less than \$5 million per day
- Tax character of fund income
- Apples to apples benchmarking
- DTLs, closet indexing, and turnover
- Fee ranges
  - Management fees: 0.45%-2.50%
  - All-in fees excluding taxes: 0.45%-5.30%

## **Appendix: About the Speaker**

Kenny Feng, CFA is the President and CEO at Alerian, which equips investors to make informed decisions about Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) and energy infrastructure. Over \$21 billion is directly tied to the Alerian Index Series, including the flagship Alerian MLP Index (AMZ). Mr. Feng is a former Managing Director and Portfolio Manager at SteelPath Capital Management LLC, a Dallas-based MLP investment manager. Prior to his experience at SteelPath, Mr. Feng covered MLPs, Electric and Gas Utilities, and Diversified Gas Companies at Goldman Sachs & Co in the firm's Global Investment Research Division. Mr. Feng graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Wharton School and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.



## **Appendix: Contact Us**

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