Market Commentary – August 2018

August was a busy month as the second quarter 2018 earnings season drew to an end. Equity markets saw a significant divergence between US and international markets, with US markets outperforming substantially. Fears of currency crises in certain emerging markets like Turkey, Argentina and South Africa and concerns about contagion to global markets ruled the day. Interestingly, traditional safe-haven asset classes like fixed income, gold and even volatility did not substantially outperform as expected -- the US equity markets are increasingly seen as the best port in a potential storm. Fixed income was slightly up, and most alternative asset classes were up, with the exception of commodities. Interest rates fell slightly lower with the 10-year ending the month at 2.86% (from 2.96%). The spread between the 2 year and the 10 year slightly decreased from 33 bps to 24 bps (1 bp = 1/100th of 1%). This is a continuation of the flattening we have seen this year.

Trade fears seemed to drive volatility during the month, despite the US and Mexico announcing progress on NAFTA negotiations. Chinese markets continued to trade down on concerns about tariffs, concerns about the weakening Yuan and its economic outlook. The US Dollar continued to strengthen since the continued positive economic data should provide the Federal Reserve with enough comfort to raise the Federal Funds Rate two more times in 2018.

Recession probabilities remain low which reflects positive movements in the Chicago Fed National Activity Index and Chicago Fed National Financial Conditions Index. Second quarter 2018 GDP was revised up from 4.1% to 4.2%. Earnings season reflected this positive economic data, however, softer-than-expected forward guidance remains a dim spot in this seemingly strong economic environment.

We continue to see conflicting messages from financial markets. Weakness in commodities and EM currencies creates an interesting juxtaposition against continued US equity earnings strength and muted volatility. The heightened global economic uncertainty, particularly as trade war rhetoric continues to rise, lends itself to a more defensive tone that should benefit most alternative asset classes over time.

Alternative Asset Class Performance

The flattening yield curve and overall decrease in rates provided a tailwind for most yield-oriented asset classes, with REITs and BDCs leading the way again. MLPs were roughly flat, and a strong month for the US Dollar did little to aid commodity declines. Despite the rising markets, hedge funds ended the month slightly positive, as interim spikes in volatility provided opportunity. August proved a fair microcosm for current YTD data, with yield-oriented strategies continuing to do well but hedged strategies and commodities lagging.

ASSET CLASS	INDEX	PERFORMANCE AUGUST 2018	YTD	1 YEAR	3 YEARS	5 YEARS	SINCE INCEPTION
MSGI	Multi-Strategy Growth & Income Fund (Class A)[1]	0.8%	-1.4%	-0.2%	3.1%	4.0%	4.8%
Non-Traditional							
Multi-Asset Class	Morningstar US Closed-End Multialternative Index[2]	-1.0%	-4.9%	-9.9%	-2.4%	0.3%	0.3%
REITs	FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs	2.4%	4.3%	6.1%	10.7%	10.9%	9.4%
Mortgage REITs	FTSE NAREIT Mortgage REITs	0.2%	4.5%	5.8%	14.1%	11.4%	9.5%
BDCs	Wells Fargo BDC	1.3%	8.5%	9.4%	9.1%	5.4%	8.1%
MLPs	Alerian MLP	0.1%	1.5%	-0.7%	-8.0%	-8.6%	-5.4%
Hedge Funds	UBS ETF HFRX Global HF	0.3%	-3.8%	-1.7%	-1.3%	-1.7%	-1.1%
Commodities	Bloomberg Commodity Index	-1.9%	-5.0%	-1.1%	-2.4%	-7.5%	-8.3%
US Dollar	Bloomberg US Dollar Spot Index	0.7%	2.0%	1.3%	-0.7%	2.7%	2.9%
Traditional							
Bonds	Barclays US Aggregate Bond	0.6%	-1.0%	-1.1%	1.8%	2.5%	2.1%
Equities	S&P 500 Index	3.0%	8.5%	17.4%	13.7%	12.2%	12.0%
Volatility	Chicago Board Options Exchange SPX Volatility Index	0.2%	16.5%	21.4%	-23.2%	-5.4%	-1.8%

1. Inception date for Multi-Strategy Growth & Income Fund (Class A) is 3/16/2012.

2. Inception date for Morningstar US Closed-End Multialternative Index is 2/27/2013.

The indices shown are for informational purposes only and are not meant to represent the Multi-Strategy Growth and Income Fund. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index performance does not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses. Index comparisons have limitations because indexes have volatility and other material characteristics that may differ from a particular investment. Reference to the benchmark is for comparative purposes only and is not intended to indicate that the fund will contain the same investments as the benchmark. Investors have the opportunity for losses as well as profits. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Important Disclosures

Investments in securities of Master Limited Partnerships (MLP) involve risks that differ from an investment in common stock. MLPs are controlled by their general partners, which generally have conflicts of interest and limited fiduciary duties to the MLP, which may permit the general partner to favor its own interests over the MLPs. The benefit you are expected to derive from the Fund's investment in MLPs depends largely on the MLPs being treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. As a partnership, an MLP has no federal income tax liability at the entity level. Therefore, treatment of one or more MLPs as a corporation for federal income tax purposes could affect the Fund's ability to meet its investment objective and would reduce the amount of cash available to pay or distribute to you. Legislative, judicial, or administrative changes and differing interpretations, possibly on a retroactive basis, could negatively impact the value of an investment in MLPs.

There currently is no secondary market for the Fund's shares, and the Fund expects that no secondary market will develop. Very limited liquidity is provided to shareholders only through the Fund's quarterly repurchase offers of up to 5% of the shares outstanding at net asset value. The sale of securities to fund repurchases could reduce the market price of those securities, which in turn would reduce the Fund's NAV. Closed-end funds involve risk, including the possible loss of principal. Alternative investment funds, ETFs, mutual funds, and closed-end funds are subject to management and other expenses, which will be indirectly paid by the Fund. Issuers of debt securities may not make scheduled interest and principal payments, resulting in losses to the Fund. Typically, a rise in interest rates causes a decline in the value of fixed-income securities. Lower-quality debt securities, known as "high yield" or "junk" bonds, present greater risk than bonds of higher quality, including increased default risk and non-diversification risk, as the funds are more vulnerable to events affecting a single issuer. The use of leverage, such as borrowing money to purchase securities, will cause the Fund to incur additional expenses and magnify the Fund's gains or losses. Investments in lesser-known, small- and medium-capitalization companies may be more vulnerable than those in larger, more established organizations. The Fund will not invest in real estate directly, but, because the Fund will concentrate its investments in securities of REITs, its portfolio will be significantly impacted by the performance of the real estate market. Investments in companies that are the subject of a publicly announced transaction carry the risk that the proposed or expected transaction may not be completed or may be completed on less favorable terms than originally expected, which may lower the portfolio's performance.

An investment cannot be made directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Note that comparing the performance to a different index might have materially different results than those shown. Any views and opinions expressed herein are not meant to provide investment advice and there is no guarantee that they will come to pass.

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the MultiStrategy Growth & Income Fund. This and other important information about the Fund is contained in the prospectus, which can be obtained by calling (855) 601-3841. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing.

The Multi-Strategy Growth & Income Fund (the "Fund") is distributed by Northern Lights Distributions, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Destra Capital Investments LLC, member FINRA/SIPC, is a sub-distributor for the Fund. LCM Investment Management, conducting business as Lucia Capital Management, is not affiliated with either Northern Lights Distributors, LLC or Destra Capital Investments LLC. 7473-NLD-09/28/2018

Index Definitions

Morningstar US Closed-End Multialternative Index represents closed end funds that have a majority of their assets exposed to alternative strategies. An investor's exposure to different tactics may change slightly over time in response to market movements. Funds in this category include both funds with static allocations to alternative strategies and funds tactically allocating among alternative strategies and asset classes.

FTSE NAREIT All Equity REIT index is a free-float adjusted, market capitalization weighted index of U.S. equity REITs. Constituents of the index include all tax qualified REITs with more than 50 percent of total assets in qualifying real estate assets other than mortgages secured by real property.

FTSE NAREIT Mortgage REIT index is a free-float adjusted, market capitalization weighted index of U.S. Mortgage REITs. Mortgage REITs include all tax-qualified REITs with more than 50 percent of total assets invested in mortgage loans or mortgage-backed securities secured by interests in real property.

Wells Fargo BDC Index is a float adjusted, capitalization-weighted Index that is intended to measure the performance of all Business Development Companies that are listed on the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ and satisfy specified market *capitalization and other eligibility requirements. To qualify as a BDC, the company must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and have elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act of 1940.*

Alerian MLP Index is the leading gauge of energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs). The capped, float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index, whose constituents represent approximately 85% of total float-adjusted market capitalization. An investment may not be made directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

UBS ETF HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index is designed to be a representative benchmark of the overall hedge fund universe and is asset weighted based on the distribution of assets in the hedge fund industry. The Index is comprised of all the eligible hedge funds falling within the four principal strategy groups: equity hedge, event driven, macro/CTA, and relative value arbitrage.

Bloomberg Commodity Index is calculated on an excess return basis and reflects commodity futures price movements. The index rebalances annually weighted 2/3 by trading volume and 1/3 by world production and weight-caps are applied at the commodity, sector and group level for diversification. Roll period typically occurs from 6th-10th business day based on the roll schedule.

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index tracks the performance of a basket of 10 leading global currencies versus the U.S. Dollar. It has a dynamically updated composition and represents a diverse set of currencies that are important from trade and liquidity perspectives.

Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index: An index commonly used as a benchmark by both passive and active investors to measure portfolio performance relative to the U.S. dollar-denominated, investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable bond market. It is also an informational measure of broad market returns commonly applied to fixed income instruments.

Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) Volatility Index shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking, is calculated from both calls and puts, and is a widely used measure of market risk, often referred to as the "investor fear gauge."

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