

United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP  
Form 10-K  
March 21, 2018

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-K**

**Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the year ended December 31, 2017.**

**OR**

**..Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from    to    .**

**Commission file number: 001-34535**

**United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware                                      26-0431733**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of    (I.R.S. Employer**  
**incorporation or organization) Identification No.)**

**1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1530**

**Oakland, California 94612**

**(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)**

**(510) 522-9600**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

<b>Shares of United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP</b> <b>(Title of each class)</b>	<b>NYSE Arca, Inc.</b> <b>(Name of exchange on which registered)</b>
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**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  
" Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. " Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.  Yes " No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).  Yes " No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).   
Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the registrant's shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2017 was: \$9,481,000.

The registrant had 800,000 outstanding shares as of March 19, 2018.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:**

None.

**UNITED STATES 12 MONTH NATURAL GAS FUND, LP**

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## Part I

### Item 1. Business.

#### **What is UNL?**

The United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP (“UNL”) is a Delaware limited partnership organized on June 27, 2007. UNL maintains its main business office at 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1530, Oakland, California 94612. UNL is a commodity pool that issues limited partnership interests (“shares”) traded on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the “NYSE Arca”). It operates pursuant to the terms of the Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated as of December 15, 2017 (as amended from time to time, the “LP Agreement”), which grants full management control to its general partner, United States Commodity Funds LLC (“USCF”).

The investment objective of UNL is for the daily changes in percentage terms of its shares’ per share net asset value (“NAV”) to reflect the daily changes in percentage terms of the spot price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana, as measured by the daily changes in the average of the prices of 12 futures contracts on natural gas traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (the “NYMEX”), consisting of the near month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 months, for a total of 12 consecutive months’ contracts, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 consecutive months (the “Benchmark Futures Contracts”), less UNL’s expenses. When calculating the daily movement of the average price of the 12 contracts, each contract month is equally weighted. UNL’s investment objective is *not* for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of natural gas or any particular futures contract based on natural gas *nor* is UNL’s investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period greater than one day.

USCF believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Futures Contracts (as defined below) and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments (as defined below). UNL’s shares began trading on November 18, 2009. USCF is the general partner of UNL and is responsible for the management of UNL.

#### **Who is USCF?**

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USCF is a single member limited liability company that was formed in the state of Delaware on May 10, 2005. USCF maintains its main business office at 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1530, Oakland, California 94612. USCF is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wainwright Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“Wainwright”), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Concierge Technologies, Inc. (publicly traded under the ticker CNCG (“Concierge”). Mr. Nicholas Gerber (discussed below), along with certain family members and certain shareholders, owns the majority of the shares in Concierge. Wainwright is a holding company that currently holds shares of both USCF, as well as USCF Advisers LLC, an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. USCF Advisers LLC serves as the investment adviser for the USCF SummerHaven SHPEN Index Fund (“BUYN”), the USCF SummerHaven SHPEI Index Fund (“BUY”), each a series of the USCF ETF Trust, as well as the USCF Commodity Strategy Fund, a series of the USCF Mutual Funds Trust. USCF ETF Trust and USCF Mutual Funds Trust are registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). USCF Advisers LLC was also the investment adviser for the Stock Split Index Fund (“TOFR”) and the USCF Restaurant Leaders Fund (“MENU”), each a series of the USCF ETF Trust, until October 2017 when both funds liquidated all of their assets and distributed cash pro rata to remaining shareholders. The Board of Trustees for USCF ETF Trust and USCF Mutual Funds Trust consist of different independent trustees than those independent directors who serve on the Board of Directors of USCF. USCF is a member of the National Futures Association (the “NFA”) and registered as a commodity pool operator (“CPO”) with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) on December 1, 2005 and as a swaps firm on August 8, 2013.

USCF serves as general partner of the United States Oil Fund, LP (“USO”), the United States Natural Gas Fund, LP (“UNG”), the United States 12 Month Oil Fund, LP (“USL”), the United States Gasoline Fund, LP (“UGA”), the United States Diesel-Heating Oil Fund, LP (“UHN”), the United States Short Oil Fund, LP (“DNO”) and the United States Brent Oil Fund, LP (“BNO”). USCF is also the sponsor of the United States Commodity Index Fund (“USCI”), the United States Copper Index Fund (“CPER”), the United States Agriculture Index Fund (“USAG”) and the USCF Canadian Crude Oil Index Fund (“UCCO”), each a series of the United States Commodity Index Funds Trust. UCCO is currently in registration and has not commenced operations.

In addition, USCF is the sponsor of the USCF Funds Trust, a Delaware Statutory Trust, and each of its series, the REX S&P MLP Fund, (“RMLP”) and the REX S&P MLP Inverse Fund (“MLPD”), which are currently in registration and have not commenced operations (together, the “REX Funds”), and the United States 3x Oil Fund (“USOU”) and the United States 3x Short Oil Fund (“USOD”), which commenced operations on July 20, 2017.

All funds listed previously, other than UCCO and the REX Funds, are referred to collectively herein as the “Related Public Funds.”

The Related Public Funds are subject to reporting requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). For more information about each of the Related Public Funds, investors in UNL may call 1-800-920-0259 or visit [www.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.com) or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s (the “SEC”) website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

USCF, as the sponsor of United States Commodity Index Funds Trust (the “Trust”) and its series the United States Metals Index Fund (“USMI”), terminated USMI effective March 18, 2015 and USMI was also delisted from NYSE Arca. On March 24, 2015, USMI liquidated all its assets and distributed cash pro rata to all remaining shareholders as of such date.

USCF is required to evaluate the credit risk of UNL to the futures commission merchant (“FCM”), oversee the purchase and sale of UNL’s shares by certain authorized purchasers (“Authorized Participants”), review daily positions and margin requirements of UNL and manage UNL’s investments. USCF also pays the fees of ALPS Distributors, Inc., (“ALPS Distributors”), which serves as the marketing agent for UNL (the “Marketing Agent”), and Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. (“BBH&Co.”), which serves as the administrator (the “Administrator”) and the custodian (the “Custodian”) for UNL.

Limited partners have no right to elect USCF as the general partner on an annual or any other continuing basis. If USCF voluntarily withdraws as general partner, however, the holders of a majority of UNL’s outstanding shares (excluding for purposes of such determination shares owned, if any, by the withdrawing USCF and its affiliates) may elect its successor. USCF may not be removed as general partner except upon approval by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 and 2/3 percent of UNL’s outstanding shares (excluding shares owned, if any, by USCF and its affiliates), subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions set forth in the LP Agreement.

UNL has no executive officers or employees. Pursuant to the terms of the LP Agreement, UNL’s affairs are managed by USCF.



The business and affairs of USCF are managed by a board of directors (the “Board”), which is comprised of four management directors (the “Management Directors”), each of whom are also executive officers or employees of USCF, and three independent directors who meet the independent director requirements established by the NYSE Arca Equities Rules and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Management Directors have the authority to manage USCF pursuant to the terms of the Sixth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of USCF, dated as of May 15, 2015 (as amended from time to time, the “LLC Agreement”). Through its Management Directors, USCF manages the day-to-day operations of UNL. The Board has an audit committee which is made up of the three independent directors (Gordon L. Ellis, Malcolm R. Fobes III and Peter M. Robinson). For additional information relating to the audit committee, please see “*Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance – Audit Committee*” in this annual report on Form 10-K.

### **How Does UNL Operate?**

An investment in the shares provides a means for diversifying an investor’s portfolio or hedging exposure to changes in natural gas prices. An investment in the shares allows both retail and institutional investors to easily gain this exposure to the natural gas market in a transparent, cost-effective manner.

The net assets of UNL consist primarily of investments in futures contracts for natural gas, crude oil, diesel-heating oil, gasoline, and other petroleum-based fuels that are traded on the NYMEX, ICE Futures or other U.S. and foreign exchanges (collectively, “Futures Contracts”) and, to a lesser extent, in order to comply with regulatory requirements or in view of market conditions, other natural gas-related investments such as cash-settled options on Futures Contracts, forward contracts for natural gas, cleared swap contracts and non-exchange traded over-the-counter (“OTC”) transactions that are based on the price of natural gas, oil and other petroleum-based fuels, Futures Contracts and indices based on the foregoing (collectively, “Other Natural Gas-Related Investments”). Market conditions that USCF currently anticipates could cause UNL to invest in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments include those allowing UNL to obtain greater liquidity or to execute transactions with more favorable pricing. For convenience and unless otherwise specified, Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments collectively are referred to as “Natural Gas Interests” in this annual report on Form 10-K. UNL invests substantially the entire amount of its assets in Futures Contracts while supporting such investments by holding the amounts of its margin, collateral and other requirements relating to these obligations in short-term obligations of the United States of two years or less (“Treasuries”), cash and cash equivalents. The daily holdings of UNL are available on UNL’s website at [www.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.com).

The investment objective of UNL is for the daily changes in percentage terms of its shares' per share NAV to reflect the daily changes in percentage terms of the spot price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana, as measured by the daily changes in the average of the prices of 12 futures contracts on natural gas traded on the NYMEX, as measured by the changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, plus interest earned on UNL's collateral holdings, less UNL's expenses. When calculating the daily movement of the average price of the 12 contracts each contract month is equally weighted. UNL's investment objective is *not* for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of natural gas or any particular futures contract based on natural gas *nor* is UNL's investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period greater than one day. UNL may invest in interests other than the Benchmark Futures Contracts to comply with accountability levels and position limits. For a detailed discussion of accountability levels and position limits, see "*Item 1. Business – What are Futures Contracts?*" below in this annual report on Form 10-K.

UNL seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing in a mix of Futures Contracts and Other-Natural-Gas Related Investments such that the changes in its NAV will closely track the changes in the price of the NYMEX Futures Contracts for natural gas delivered to Henry Hub Louisiana. USCF believes changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts have historically exhibited a close correlation with the changes in the spot price of natural gas. On any valuation day (a valuation day is any NYSE Arca trading day as of which UNL calculates its NAV as described herein), the Benchmark Futures Contracts are the near month contract to expire for natural gas traded on the NYMEX, and the contracts for the following 11 months, for a total of 12 consecutive months' contracts, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month contract to expire for natural gas on the NYMEX and the contracts for the following 11 consecutive months. When calculating the daily movement of the average price of the 12 contracts, each contract month is equally weighted.

USCF believes that holding futures contracts whose expiration dates are spread out over a 12 month period of time will cause the total return of such a portfolio to vary compared to a portfolio that holds only a single month's contract (such as the near month contract). In particular, USCF believes that the total return of a portfolio holding contracts with a range of expiration months will be impacted differently by the price relationship between different contract months of the same commodity future compared to the total return of a portfolio consisting of the near month contract. For example, in cases in which the near month contract's price is higher than the price of contracts that expire later in time (a situation known as "backwardation" in the futures markets), then absent the impact of the overall movement in natural gas prices the value of the near month contract would tend to rise as it approaches expiration. Conversely, in cases in which the near month contract's price is lower than the price of contracts that expire later in time (a situation known as "contango" in the futures markets), then absent the impact of the overall movement in natural gas prices the value of the near month contract would tend to decline as it approaches expiration. The total return of a portfolio that owned the near month contract and "rolled" forward each month by selling the near month contract as it approached expiration and purchasing the next month contract to expire would be positively impacted by a backwardation market, and negatively impacted by a contango market. Depending on the exact price relationship of the different month's prices, portfolio expenses, and the overall movement of natural gas prices, the impact of backwardation and contango could have a major impact on the total return of such a portfolio over time. USCF believes that based on historical evidence a portfolio that held futures contracts with a range of expiration dates spread out over a 12 month period of time would typically be impacted less by the positive effect of backwardation and the negative effect of contango

compared to a portfolio that held contracts of a single near month. As a result, absent the impact of any other factors, a portfolio of 12 different monthly contracts would tend to have a lower total return than a near month only portfolio in a backwardation market and a higher total return in a contango market. However there can be no assurance that such historical relationships would provide the same or similar results in the future.

USCF employs a “neutral” investment strategy in order to track changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts regardless of whether the price goes up or goes down. UNL’s “neutral” investment strategy is designed to permit investors generally to purchase and sell UNL’s shares for the purpose of investing indirectly in natural gas in a cost-effective manner, and/or to permit participants in the natural gas or other industries to hedge the risk of losses in their natural gas-related transactions. Accordingly, depending on the investment objective of an individual investor, the risks generally associated with investing in natural gas and/or the risks involved in hedging may exist. In addition, an investment in UNL involves the risk that the daily changes in the average of the prices of UNL’s shares, in percentage terms, will not accurately track the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contracts, in percentage terms, and that daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contracts, in percentage terms, will not closely correlate with daily changes in the spot prices of natural gas, in percentage terms.

The Benchmark Futures Contracts are changed from the near month contract to expire and the 11 following months to the next month contract to expire and the 11 following months during one day each month. On that day, USCF anticipates it will “roll” UNL’s positions by closing, or selling, its natural gas interests and reinvests the proceeds from closing these positions in new natural gas interests.

The anticipated monthly dates on which UNL will “roll” its positions are posted on UNL’s website at [www.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.com), and are subject to change without notice.

UNL's total portfolio composition is disclosed on its website each business day that the NYSE Arca is open for trading. The website disclosure of portfolio holdings is made daily and includes, as applicable, the name and value of each Natural Gas Interest, the specific types of Natural Gas Interests and characteristics of such Other Natural Gas Interests, the name and value of each Treasury and cash equivalent, and the amount of cash held in UNL's portfolio. UNL's website is publicly accessible at no charge. UNL's assets used for margin and collateral are held in segregated accounts pursuant to the Commodity Exchange Act (the "CEA") and CFTC regulations.

The shares issued by UNL may only be purchased by Authorized Participants and only in blocks of 50,000 shares, called "Creation Baskets". The amount of the purchase payment for a Creation Basket is equal to the aggregate NAV of shares in the Creation Basket. Similarly, only Authorized Participants may redeem shares and only in blocks of 50,000 shares, called "Redemption Baskets". The amount of the redemption proceeds for a Redemption Basket is equal to the aggregate NAV of the shares in the Redemption Basket. The purchase price for Creation Baskets, and the redemption price for Redemption Baskets are the actual NAV calculated at the end of the business day when a request for a purchase or redemption is received by UNL. The NYSE Arca publishes an approximate per share NAV intra-day based on the prior day's per share NAV and the current price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, but the price of Creation Baskets and Redemption Baskets is determined based on the actual per share NAV calculated at the end of the day.

While UNL issues shares only in Creation Baskets, shares are listed on the NYSE Arca and investors may purchase and sell shares at market prices like any listed security.

### **What is UNL's Investment Strategy?**

In managing UNL's assets, USCF does not use a technical trading system that issues buy and sell orders. USCF instead employs a quantitative methodology whereby each time a Creation Basket is sold, USCF purchases Natural Gas Interests, such as the Benchmark Futures Contracts, that have an aggregate market value that approximates the amount of Treasuries and/or cash received upon the issuance of the Creation Basket.

By remaining invested as fully as possible in Futures Contracts or Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, USCF believes that the daily changes in percentage terms in UNL's per share NAV will continue to closely track the daily changes in percentage terms in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. USCF believes that certain arbitrage opportunities result in the price of the shares traded on the NYSE Arca closely tracking the per share NAV of UNL. Additionally, Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX have closely tracked the spot price of natural gas. Based on these expected interrelationships, USCF believes that the daily changes in the price of UNL's shares traded on the NYSE Arca, on a percentage basis, have closely tracked and will continue to closely track on a daily basis, the daily changes in the spot price of natural gas, on a percentage basis. For performance data relating to UNL's ability to track its benchmark, see "*Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and*

*Results of Operations – Tracking UNL’s Benchmark*” in this annual report on Form 10-K.

USCF endeavors to place UNL’s trades in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments and otherwise manage UNL’s investments so that “A” will be within plus/minus ten percent (10%) of “B,” where:

- A is the average daily change in UNL’s per share NAV for any period of 30 successive valuation days; i.e., any NYSE Arca trading day as of which UNL calculates its per share NAV; and
- B is the average daily percentage change in the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts over the same period.

USCF believes that market arbitrage opportunities will cause the daily changes in UNL’s share price on the NYSE Arca, on a percentage basis, to closely track the daily changes in UNL’s per share NAV, on a percentage basis. USCF further believes that the net effect of these two expected relationships and the relationships described above between UNL’s per share NAV and the Benchmark Futures Contracts will be that the daily changes in the price of UNL’s shares on the NYSE Arca on a percentage basis will closely track, the changes in the spot price of a barrel of natural gas on a percentage basis, plus interest earned on UNL’s collateral holdings, less UNL’s expenses. For performance data relating to UNL’s ability to track its benchmark, see “*Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Tracking UNL’s Benchmark*” in this annual report on Form 10-K.

The specific Futures Contracts purchased depend on various factors, including a judgment by USCF as to the appropriate diversification of UNL's investments in futures contracts with respect to the month of expiration, and the prevailing price volatility of particular contracts. While USCF has made significant investments in NYMEX Futures Contracts, for various reasons, including the ability to enter into the precise amount of exposure to the natural gas market, position limits or other regulatory requirements limiting UNL's holdings, and market conditions, it may invest in futures contracts traded on other exchanges or invest in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. To the extent that UNL invests in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, it would prioritize investments in contracts and instruments that are economically equivalent to the Benchmark Futures Contracts, including cleared swaps that satisfy such criteria, and then, to a lesser extent, it would invest in other types of cleared swaps and other contracts, instruments and non-cleared swaps, such as swaps in the OTC market. If UNL is required by law or regulation, or by one of its regulators, including a futures exchange, to reduce its position in the Futures Contracts to the applicable position limit or to a specified accountability level or if market conditions dictate it would be more appropriate to invest in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, a substantial portion of UNL's assets could be invested in accordance with such priority in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments that are intended to replicate the return on the Benchmark Futures Contracts. As UNL's assets reach higher levels, it is more likely to exceed position limits, accountability levels or other regulatory limits and, as a result, it is more likely that it will invest in accordance with such priority in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments at such higher levels. In addition, market conditions that USCF currently anticipates could cause UNL to invest in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments include those allowing UNL to obtain greater liquidity or to execute transactions with more favorable pricing. See "*Item 1. Business – Commodities Regulation*" in this annual report on Form 10-K for a discussion of the potential impact of regulation on UNL's ability to invest in OTC transactions and cleared swaps.

USCF may not be able to fully invest UNL's assets in the Futures Contracts having an aggregate notional amount exactly equal to UNL's NAV. For example, as standardized contracts, the Futures Contracts are for a specified amount of a particular commodity, and UNL's NAV and the proceeds from the sale of a Creation Basket are unlikely to be an exact multiple of the amounts of those contracts. As a result, in such circumstances, UNL may be better able to achieve the exact amount of exposure to changes in price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts through the use of Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, such as OTC contracts that have better correlation with changes in price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.

UNL anticipates that to the extent it invests in Futures Contracts other than contracts on natural gas (such as futures contracts for light, sweet crude oil, diesel-heating oil and other petroleum-based fuels) and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, it will enter into various non-exchange-traded derivative contracts to hedge the short-term price movements of such Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments against the current Benchmark Futures Contracts.

USCF does not anticipate letting UNL's Futures Contracts expire and taking delivery of the underlying commodity. Instead, USCF closes existing positions, e.g., when it changes the Benchmark Futures Contracts or Other Natural Gas-Related Investments or it otherwise determines it would be appropriate to do so and reinvests the proceeds in new Futures Contracts or Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. Positions may also be closed out to meet orders for Redemption Baskets and in such case proceeds for such baskets will not be reinvested.

## **What is the Natural Gas Market and the Petroleum-Based Fuel Market?**

*Natural Gas.* Natural gas accounts for almost a quarter of U.S. energy consumption. The price of natural gas is established by the supply and demand conditions in the North American market, and more particularly, in the main refining center of the U.S. Gulf Coast. The natural gas market essentially constitutes an auction, where the highest bidder wins the supply. When markets are “strong” (*i.e.*, when demand is high and/or supply is low), the bidder must be willing to pay a higher premium to capture the supply. When markets are “weak” (*i.e.*, when demand is low and/or supply is high), a bidder may choose not to outbid competitors, waiting instead for later, possibly lower priced, supplies. Demand for natural gas by consumers, as well as agricultural, manufacturing and transportation industries, determines overall demand for natural gas. Since the precursors of product demand are linked to economic activity, natural gas demand will tend to reflect economic conditions. However, other factors such as weather significantly influence natural gas demand.

The NYMEX is the world's largest physical commodity futures exchange and the dominant market for the trading of energy and precious metals. The Benchmark Futures Contracts trade in units of 10,000 million British thermal units ("MMBtu") and is based on delivery at the Henry Hub in Louisiana, the nexus of 16 intra- and interstate natural gas pipeline systems that draw supplies from the region's prolific gas deposits. The pipelines serve markets throughout the U.S. East Coast, the Gulf Coast, the Midwest, and up to the Canadian border. Because of the volatility of natural gas prices, a vigorous basis market has developed in the pricing relationships between the Henry Hub and other important natural gas market centers in the continental United States and Canada. The NYMEX makes available for trading a series of basis swap futures contracts that are quoted as price differentials between approximately 30 natural gas pricing points and the Henry Hub. The basis contracts trade in units of 2,500 MMBtu on the New York Mercantile Exchange ClearPort® trading platform. The New York Mercantile Exchange ClearPort® is an electronic trading platform through which a slate of energy futures contracts are available for competitive trading. Transactions can also be consummated off-NYMEX and submitted to the NYMEX for clearing via the NYMEX ClearPort® clearing website as an exchange of futures for physicals or an exchange of futures for swaps transactions.

*Light, Sweet Crude Oil.* Light, sweet crudes are preferred by refiners because of their low sulfur content and relatively high yields of high-value products such as gasoline, diesel fuel, diesel-heating oil, and jet fuel. The price of light, sweet crude oil has historically exhibited periods of significant volatility.

Demand for petroleum products by consumers, as well as agricultural, manufacturing and transportation industries, determines demand for crude oil by refiners. Since the precursors of product demand are linked to economic activity, crude oil demand will tend to reflect economic conditions. However, other factors such as weather also influence product and crude oil demand.

Crude oil supply is determined by both economic and political factors. Oil prices (along with drilling costs, availability of attractive prospects for drilling, taxes and technology, among other factors) determine exploration and development spending, which influence output capacity with a lag. In the short run, production decisions by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC") also affect supply and prices. Oil export embargoes and the current conflicts in the Middle East represent other routes through which political developments move the market. It is not possible to predict the aggregate effect of all or any combination of these factors.

*Diesel-Heating Oil.* Diesel-heating oil, also known as No. 2 fuel oil, accounts for 25% of the yield of a barrel of crude oil, the second largest "cut" from oil after gasoline. The diesel-heating Oil Futures Contract listed and traded on the NYMEX trades in units of 42,000 gallons (1,000 barrels) and is based on delivery in the New York harbor, the principal cash market center. The ICE Futures also offers a diesel-heating Oil Futures Contract which trades in units of 42,000 U.S. gallons (1,000 barrels). The diesel-heating Oil Futures Contract is cash-settled against the prevailing market price for heating oil delivered to the New York Harbor.



*Gasoline.* Gasoline is the largest single volume refined product sold in the U.S. and accounts for almost half of national oil consumption. The gasoline futures contract listed and traded on the NYMEX trades in units of 42,000 gallons (1,000 barrels) and is based on delivery at petroleum products terminals in the New York harbor, the major East Coast trading center for imports and domestic shipments from refineries in the New York harbor area or from the Gulf Coast refining centers. The price of gasoline has historically been volatile.

### **What are Futures Contracts?**

Futures contracts are agreements between two parties. One party agrees to buy a commodity such as natural gas from the other party at a later date at a price and quantity agreed upon when the contract is made. Futures Contracts are traded on futures exchanges, including the NYMEX. For example, the Benchmark Futures Contracts are traded on the NYMEX in units of 10,000 MMBtu. Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX are priced by floor brokers and other exchange members both through an “open outcry” of offers to purchase or sell the contracts and through an electronic, screen-based system that determines the price by matching electronically offers to purchase and sell. Additional risks of investing in Futures Contracts are included in “*Item 1A. Risk Factors*” in this annual report on Form 10-K.

*Accountability Levels, Position Limits and Price Fluctuation Limits.* Designated contract markets, such as the NYMEX and ICE Futures have established accountability levels and position limits on the maximum net long or net short futures contracts in commodity interests that any person or group of persons under common trading control (other than as a hedge, which an investment by UNL is not) may hold, own or control. These levels and position limits apply to the futures contracts that UNL invests in to meet its investment objective. In addition to accountability levels and position limits, the NYMEX and ICE Futures also set daily price fluctuation limits on futures contracts. The daily price fluctuation limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day’s settlement price. Once the daily price fluctuation limit has been reached in a particular futures contract, no trades may be made at a price beyond that limit.

The accountability levels for the Benchmark Futures Contracts and other Futures Contracts traded on U.S.-based futures exchanges, such as the NYMEX, are not a fixed ceiling, but rather a threshold above which the NYMEX may exercise greater scrutiny and control over an investor's positions. The current accountability level for investments for any one-month in a Benchmark Futures Contract is 6,000 contracts. In addition, the NYMEX imposes an accountability level for all months of 12,000 net futures contracts for natural gas. In addition, the ICE Futures maintains the same accountability levels, position limits and monitoring authority for its natural gas contract as the NYMEX. If UNL and the Related Public Funds exceed these accountability levels for investments in the futures contracts for natural gas, the NYMEX and ICE Futures will monitor such exposure and may ask for further information on their activities, including the total size of all positions, investment and trading strategy, and the extent of liquidity resources of UNL and the Related Public Funds. If deemed necessary by the NYMEX and/or ICE Futures, UNL could be ordered to reduce its Natural Gas NG Futures Contracts to below the 6,000 single month and/or 12,000 all month accountability level. As of December 31, 2017, UNL held 292 Natural Gas NG Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX and did not hold any Futures Contracts traded on ICE Futures. For the year ended December 31, 2017, UNL did not exceed accountability levels imposed by the NYMEX and ICE Futures, however, the aggregated total of the Related Public Funds did exceed the accountability levels.

Position limits differ from accountability levels in that they represent fixed limits on the maximum number of futures contracts that any person may hold and cannot allow such limits to be exceeded without express CFTC authority to do so. In addition to accountability levels and position limits that may apply at any time, the NYMEX and the ICE Futures impose position limits on contracts held in the last few days of trading in the near month contract to expire. It is unlikely that UNL will run up against such position limits because UNL's investment strategy is to close out its positions and "roll" from the near month contracts to expire to the next month contracts during a one-day period beginning two weeks from expiration of the contracts. For the year ended December 31, 2017, UNL did not exceed any position limits imposed by the NYMEX and ICE Futures.

The CFTC has proposed to adopt limits on speculative positions in 25 physical commodity futures and option contracts as well as swaps that are economically equivalent to such contracts in the agriculture, energy and metals markets (the "Position Limit Rules"). The Position Limit Rules would, among other things: identify which contracts are subject to speculative position limits; set thresholds that restrict the size of speculative positions that a person may hold in the spot month, other individual months, and all months combined; create an exemption for positions that constitute bona fide hedging transactions; impose responsibilities on designated contract markets ("DCMs") and swap execution facilities ("SEFs") to establish position limits or, in some cases, position accountability rules; and apply to both futures and swaps across four relevant venues: OTC, DCMs, SEFs as well as certain non-U.S. located platforms. The CFTC's first attempt at finalizing the Position Limit Rules, in 2011, was successfully challenged by market participants in 2012 and, since then, the CFTC has re-proposed them and solicited comments from market participants multiple times. At this time, it is unclear how the Position Limit Rules may affect UNL, but the effect may be substantial and adverse. By way of example, the Position Limit Rules may negatively impact the ability of UNL to meet its investment objectives through limits that may inhibit USCF's ability to sell additional Creation Baskets of UNL. See *"The Commodity Interest Markets-Commodities Regulation"* in this annual report on Form 10-K for additional information.

Until such time as the Position Limit Rules are adopted, the regulatory architecture in effect prior to the adoption of the Position Limit Rules will govern transactions in commodities and related derivatives. Under that system, the CFTC enforces federal limits on speculation in nine agricultural products (e.g., corn, wheat and soy), while futures exchanges establish and enforce position limits and accountability levels for other agricultural products and certain energy products (e.g., oil and natural gas). As a result, UNL may be limited with respect to the size of its investments in any commodities subject to these limits.

Under existing and recently adopted CFTC regulations, for the purpose of position limits, a market participant is generally required, subject to certain narrow exceptions, to aggregate all positions for which that participant controls the trading decisions with all positions for which that participant has a 10 percent or greater ownership interest in an account or position, as well as the positions of two or more persons acting pursuant to an express or implied agreement or understanding with that participant (the "Aggregation Rules"). The Aggregation Rules will also apply with respect to the Position Limit Rules if and when such Position Limit Rules are adopted.

*Price Volatility.* The price volatility of Futures Contracts generally has been historically greater than that for traditional securities such as stocks and bonds. Price volatility often is greater day-to-day as opposed to intra-day. Futures Contracts tend to be more volatile than stocks and bonds because price movements for natural gas are more currently and directly influenced by economic factors for which current data is available and are traded by natural gas futures traders throughout the day. Because UNL invests a significant portion of its assets in Futures Contracts, the assets of UNL, and therefore the prices of UNL shares, may be subject to greater volatility than traditional securities.

*Marking-to-Market Futures Positions.* Futures Contracts are marked to market at the end of each trading day and the margin required with respect to such contracts is adjusted accordingly. This process of marking-to-market is designed to prevent losses from accumulating in any futures account. Therefore, if UNL's futures positions have declined in value, UNL may be required to post "variation margin" to cover this decline. Alternatively, if UNL's futures positions have increased in value, this increase will be credited to UNL's account.

#### **Why Does UNL Purchase and Sell Futures Contracts?**

UNL's investment objective is for the daily changes in percentage terms of its shares' per share NAV to reflect the daily changes in percentage terms of the spot price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana, as measured by the changes in the average of the prices of 12 futures contracts on natural gas traded on the NYMEX, consisting of the near month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 months, for a total of 12 consecutive months' contracts, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 consecutive months, less UNL's expenses. When calculating the daily movement of the average price of the 12 Benchmark Futures Contracts, each contract month is equally weighted.

In connection with investing in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, UNL holds Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents that serve as segregated assets supporting UNL's positions in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. For example, the purchase of a Futures Contract with a stated value of \$10 million would not require UNL to pay \$10 million upon entering into the contract; rather, only a margin deposit, generally of 5% to 30% of the stated value of the Futures Contract, would be required. To secure its Futures Contract obligations, UNL would deposit the required margin with the FCM and would separately hold, through its Custodian or FCM, Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents in an amount equal to the balance of the current market value of the contract, which at the contract's inception would be \$10 million minus the amount of the margin deposit, or \$9.5 million (assuming a 5% margin).

As a result of the foregoing, typically 5% to 30% of UNL's assets are held as margin in segregated accounts with an FCM. In addition to the Treasuries and cash it posts with the FCM for the Futures Contracts it owns, UNL may hold, through the Custodian, Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents that can be posted as additional margin or as other

collateral to support its OTC contracts. UNL earns income from the Treasuries and/or cash equivalents that it purchases, and on the cash it holds through the Custodian or FCM. UNL anticipates that the earned income will increase the NAV and limited partners' capital contribution accounts. UNL reinvests the earned income, holds it in cash, or uses it to pay its expenses. If UNL reinvests the earned income, it makes investments that are consistent with its investment objective.

### **What are the Trading Policies of UNL?**

#### ***Liquidity***

UNL invests only in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments that, in the opinion of USCF, are traded in sufficient volume to permit the ready taking and liquidation of positions in these financial interests and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments that, in the opinion of USCF, may be readily liquidated with the original counterparty or through a third party assuming the position of UNL.

### ***Spot Commodities***

While the Futures Contracts can be physically settled, UNL does not intend to take or make physical delivery. UNL may from time to time trade in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, including contracts based on the spot price of natural gas.

### ***Leverage***

USCF endeavors to have the value of UNL's Treasuries, cash and cash equivalents, whether held by UNL or posted as margin or other collateral, at all times approximate the aggregate market value of its obligations under its Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. Commodity pools' trading positions in futures contracts or other related investments are typically required to be secured by the deposit of margin funds that represent only a small percentage of a futures contract's (or other commodity interest's) entire market value. While USCF has not and does not intend to leverage UNL's assets, it is not prohibited from doing so under the LP Agreement.

### ***Borrowings***

Borrowings are not used by UNL, unless UNL is required to borrow money in the event of physical delivery, if UNL trades in cash commodities, or for short-term needs created by unexpected redemptions.

### ***OTC Derivatives (Including Spreads and Straddles)***

In addition to Futures Contracts, there are also a number of listed options on the Futures Contracts on the principal futures exchanges. These contracts offer investors and hedgers another set of financial vehicles to use in managing exposure to the natural gas market. Consequently, UNL may purchase options on natural gas Futures Contracts on these exchanges in pursuing its investment objective.

In addition to the Futures Contracts and options on the Futures Contracts, there also exists an active non-exchange-traded market in derivatives tied to natural gas. These derivatives transactions (also known as OTC contracts) are usually entered into between two parties in private contracts. Unlike most of the exchange-traded Futures Contracts or exchange-traded options on the Futures Contracts, each party to such contract bears the credit

risk of the other party, i.e., the risk that the other party may not be able to perform its obligations under its contract. To reduce the credit risk that arises in connection with such contracts, UNL will generally enter into an agreement with each counterparty based on the Master Agreement published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. (“ISDA”) that provides for the netting of its overall exposure to its counterparty.

USCF assesses or reviews, as appropriate, the creditworthiness of each potential or existing counterparty to an OTC contract pursuant to guidelines approved by USCF’s Board.

UNL may enter into certain transactions where an OTC component is exchanged for a corresponding futures contract (“Exchange for Related Position” or “EFRP” transactions). In the most common type of EFRP transaction entered into by UNL, the OTC component is the purchase or sale of one or more baskets of UNL’s shares. These EFRP transactions may expose UNL to counterparty risk during the interim period between the execution of the OTC component and the exchange for a corresponding futures contract. Generally, the counterparty risk from the EFRP transaction will exist only on the day of execution.

UNL may employ spreads or straddles in its trading to mitigate the differences in its investment portfolio and its goal of tracking the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. UNL would use a spread when it chooses to take simultaneous long and short positions in futures written on the same underlying asset, but with different delivery months.

During the reporting period of this annual report on Form 10-K, UNL limited its derivatives activities to Futures Contracts and EFRP transactions.

### *Pyramiding*

UNL has not and will not employ the technique, commonly known as pyramiding, in which the speculator uses unrealized profits on existing positions as variation margin for the purchase or sale of additional positions in the same or another commodity interest.

### **Who are the Service Providers?**

In its capacity as the Custodian for UNL, BBH&Co. may hold UNL's Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents pursuant to a custodial agreement. BBH&Co. is also the registrar and transfer agent for the shares. In addition, in its capacity as Administrator for UNL, BBH&Co. performs certain administrative and accounting services for UNL and prepares certain SEC, NFA and CFTC reports on behalf of UNL. USCF pays BBH&Co.'s fees for these services.

BBH&Co.'s principal business address is 50 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02110-1548. BBH&Co., a private bank founded in 1818, is neither a publicly held company nor insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. BBH&Co. is authorized to conduct a commercial banking business in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the New York State Banking Law, New York Banking Law §§160–181, and is subject to regulation, supervision, and examination by the New York State Department of Financial Services. BBH&Co. is also licensed to conduct a commercial banking business by the Commonwealths of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and is subject to supervision and examination by the banking supervisors of those states.

UNL also employs ALPS Distributors as its marketing agent. USCF pays the Marketing Agent an annual fee. In no event may the aggregate compensation paid to the Marketing Agent and any affiliate of USCF for distribution-related services in connection with the offering of shares exceed ten percent (10%) of the gross proceeds of the offering.

ALPS Distributors' principal business address is 1290 Broadway, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80203. ALPS Distributors is the marketing agent for UNL. ALPS Distributors is a broker-dealer registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and a member of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

On October 8, 2013, USCF entered into a Futures and Cleared Derivatives Transactions Customer Account Agreement with RBC Capital Markets, LLC ("RBC Capital") to serve as UNL's FCM, effective October 10, 2013. This agreement requires RBC Capital to provide services to UNL, as of October 10, 2013, in connection with the purchase and sale of Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments that may be purchased or sold by or through



RBC Capital for UNL's account. For the period October 10, 2013 and after, UNL pays RBC Capital commissions for executing and clearing trades on behalf of UNL.

RBC Capital's primary address is 500 West Madison Street, Suite 2500, Chicago, Illinois 60661. Effective October 10, 2013, RBC Capital became the futures clearing broker for UNL. RBC Capital is registered in the United States with FINRA as a broker-dealer and with the CFTC as an FCM. RBC Capital is a member of various U.S. futures and securities exchanges.

Royal Bank of Canada ("RBC"), and its subsidiary, RBC Capital Markets LLC ("RBC Capital"), are large financial institutions subject to many different complex legal and regulatory requirements. As a result, certain of RBC's regulators may from time to time conduct investigations, initiate enforcement proceedings and/or enter into settlements with RBC with respect to issues raised in various investigations. RBC complies fully with its regulators in all investigations being conducted and in all settlements it reaches. In addition, RBC is and has been subject to a variety of civil legal claims in various jurisdictions, a variety of settlement agreements and a variety of orders, awards and judgments made against it by courts and tribunals, both in regard to such claims and investigations. RBC complies fully with all settlements it reaches and all orders, awards and judgments made against it.

RBC has been named as a defendant in various legal actions, including arbitrations, class actions and other litigation including those described below, arising in connection with its activities as a broker-dealer. Certain of the actual or threatened legal actions include claims for substantial compensatory and/or punitive damages or claims for indeterminate amounts of damages. RBC is also involved, in other reviews, investigations and proceedings (both formal and informal) by governmental and self-regulatory agencies regarding RBC's business, including among other matters, accounting and operational matters, certain of which may result in adverse judgments, settlements, fines, penalties, injunctions or other relief.

RBC contests liability and/or the amount of damages as appropriate in each pending matter. In view of the inherent difficulty of predicting the outcome of such matters, particularly in cases where claimants seek substantial or indeterminate damages or where investigations and proceedings are in the early stages, RBC cannot predict the loss or range of loss, if any, related to such matters; how or if such matters will be resolved; when they will ultimately be resolved; or what the eventual settlement, fine, penalty or other relief, if any, might be. Subject to the foregoing, RBC believes, based on current knowledge and after consultation with counsel, that the outcome of such pending matters will not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial condition of RBC.

On April 27, 2017, pursuant to an offer of settlement, a Panel of the Chicago Board of Trade Business Conduct Committee ("Panel") found that RBC Capital engaged in EFRP transactions which failed to satisfy the Rules of the Chicago Board of Trade (the "Exchange") in one or more ways. Specifically, the Panel found that RBC Capital traders entered into EFRP trades in which RBC Capital accounts were on both sides of the transactions. While the purpose of the transactions was to transfer positions between the RBC Capital accounts, the CME Group found that the manner in which the trades occurred violated the Exchange's prohibition on wash trades. The Panel found that RBC Capital thereby violated CBOT Rules 534 and (legacy) 538.B. and C. In accordance with the settlement offer, the Panel ordered RBC Capital to pay a \$175,000 fine.

On June 18, 2015, in connection with the Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation initiative of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the SEC commenced and settled an administrative proceeding against RBC Capital for willful violations of Sections 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Securities Act") after the firm self-reported instances in which it conducted inadequate due diligence in certain municipal securities offerings and as a result, failed to form a reasonable basis for believing the truthfulness of certain material representations in official statements issued in connection with those offerings. RBC Capital paid a fine of \$500,000.

RBC and certain affiliates were named as defendants in a lawsuit relating to their role in transactions involving investments made by a number of Wisconsin school districts in certain collateralized debt obligations. These transactions were also the subject of a regulatory investigation, which was resolved in 2011. RBC reached a final settlement with all parties in the civil litigation, and the civil action against RBC was dismissed with prejudice on December 6, 2016.

On July 31, 2015, RBC Capital was added as a new defendant in a pending putative class action initially filed in November 2013 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The action is brought against multiple foreign exchange dealers and alleges collusive behavior, among other allegations, in foreign exchange trading. Various regulators are also conducting inquiries regarding potential violations of law by a number of banks and other entities, including RBC, regarding foreign exchange trading. In September 2017, the U.S. District Court entered an order preliminarily approving a pending settlement with class plaintiffs. Canadian class actions and one other U.S. action that is purportedly brought on behalf of different classes of plaintiffs remain pending.

On April 13, 2015, RBC's affiliate, Royal Bank of Canada Trust Company (Bahamas) Limited (RBC Bahamas), was charged in France with complicity in tax fraud. RBC Bahamas believes that its actions did not violate French law and contested the charge in the French court. The trial of this matter has concluded and a verdict was delivered on January 12, 2017, acquitting the company and the other defendants. The French prosecutor's office has appealed.

Thornburg Mortgage Inc. (now known as “TMST”) and RBC were parties to a master repurchase agreement executed in September 2003 whereby TMST financed its purchase of residential mortgage-backed securities. Upon TMST’s default during the financial crisis, RBC valued TMST’s collateral at allegedly deflated prices. After TMST’s bankruptcy filing, TMST’s trustee brought suit against RBC in 2011 for breach of contract. In 2015, TMST was awarded more than \$45 million in damages. RBC has appealed. The appeals court set a briefing schedule and simultaneously ordered the parties to participate in a mediation. The parties have subsequently reached an agreement to settle the matter; a motion to approve the settlement was filed with the bankruptcy court on January 10, 2016 and granted on February 27, 2017.

On October 14, 2014, the Delaware Court of Chancery (the “Court of Chancery”) in a class action brought by former shareholders of Rural/Metro Corporation, held RBC Capital liable for aiding and abetting a breach of fiduciary duty by three Rural/Metro directors, but did not make an additional award for attorney’s fees. A final judgment was entered on February 19, 2015 in the amount of US\$93 million plus post judgment interest. RBC appealed the Court of Chancery’s determination of liability and quantum of damages, and the plaintiffs cross-appealed the ruling on additional attorneys’ fees. On November 30, 2015, the Delaware Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Chancery with respect to both the appeal and cross-appeal. RBC is cooperating with an investigation by the SEC relating to this matter. In particular, the SEC contended that RBC caused materially false and misleading information to be included in the proxy statement that Rural filed to solicit shareholder approval for the sale in violation of section 14(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 14A-9 thereunder. On August 31, 2016, RBC was ordered by the SEC to cease and desist and paid \$500,000 in disgorgement, plus interest of \$77,759 and a civil penalty of \$2 million.

On March 11, 2013, the New Jersey Bureau of Securities entered a consent order settling an administrative complaint against RBC, which alleged that RBC failed to follow its own procedures with respect to monthly account reviews and failed to maintain copies of the monthly account reviews with respect to certain accounts that James Hankins Jr. maintained at the firm in violation of N.J.S.A. 49:3-58(a)(2)(xi) and 49:3-59(b). Without admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law, RBC consented to a civil monetary penalty of \$150,000 (of which \$100,000 was suspended as a result of the firm’s cooperation) and to pay disgorgement of \$300,000.

Please see RBC’s Form BD, which is available on the FINRA BrokerCheck program, for more details.

RBC Capital will act only as clearing broker for UNL and as such will be paid commissions for executing and clearing trades on behalf of UNL. RBC Capital has not passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this annual report on Form 10-K. RBC Capital will not act in any supervisory capacity with respect to USCF or participate in the management of USCF or UNL.

RBC Capital is not affiliated with UNL or USCF. Therefore, neither USCF nor UNL believes that there are any conflicts of interest with RBC Capital or its trading principals arising from its acting as UNL’s FCM.

Currently, USCF does not employ commodity trading advisors for the trading of UNL contracts. USCF currently does, however, employ SummerHaven Investment Management, LLC as a trading advisor for USCI, CPER and USAG. If, in the future, USCF does employ commodity trading advisors for UNL, it will choose each advisor based on arm's-length negotiations and will consider the advisor's experience, fees and reputation.

## Fees of UNL

### *Fees and Compensation Arrangements with USCF and Non-Affiliated Service Providers <sup>(1)</sup>*

<b>Service Provider</b>	<b>Compensation Paid by USCF</b>
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BBH&Co., Custodian and Administrator	Minimum amount of \$75,000 annually for its custody, fund accounting and fund administration services rendered to all funds, as well as a \$20,000 annual fee for its transfer agency services. In addition, an asset-based charge of (a) 0.06% for the first \$500 million of UNL's and the Related Public Funds' combined net assets, (b) 0.0465% for UNL's and the Related Public Funds' combined net assets greater than \$500 million but less than \$1 billion, and (c) 0.035% once UNL's and the Related Public Funds' combined net assets exceed \$1 billion <sup>(2)</sup>
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ALPS Distributors - Marketing Agent	0.06% on UNL's assets up to \$3 billion and 0.04% on UNL's assets in excess of \$3 billion.
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(1) USCF pays this compensation.

The annual minimum amount will not apply if the asset-based charge for all accounts in the aggregate exceeds \$75,000. USCF also will pay transaction charge fees to BBH&Co., ranging from \$7 to \$15 per transaction for the funds.

***Compensation to USCF***

UNL is contractually obligated to pay USCF a management fee based on 0.75% per annum on its average daily total net assets. Fees are calculated on a daily basis (accrued at 1/365 of the applicable percentage of total net assets on that day) and paid on a monthly basis. Total net assets are calculated by taking the current market value of UNL's total assets and subtracting any liabilities.

***Fees and Compensation Arrangements between UNL and Non-Affiliated Service Providers*** <sup>(3)</sup>

<b>Service Provider</b>	<b>Compensation Paid by UNL</b>
RBC Capital Futures Commission Merchant	Approximately \$3.50 per buy or sell; charges may vary

<sup>(3)</sup>UNL pays this compensation.

***New York Mercantile Exchange Licensing Fee*** <sup>(4)</sup> – 0.015% on all net assets.

Fees are calculated on a daily basis (accrued at 1/365 of the applicable percentage of NAV on that day) and paid on <sup>(4)</sup>a monthly basis. UNL is responsible for its pro rata share of the assets held by UNL and the Related Public Funds, other than BNO, USCI, CPER, USAG, USOU and USOD.

***Expenses Paid or Accrued by UNL from Inception through December 31, 2017 in dollar terms:***

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Amount in Dollar Terms</b>
Amount Paid or Accrued to USCF:	\$ 1,482,549
Amount Paid or Accrued in Portfolio Brokerage Commissions:	\$ 67,570
Other Amounts Paid or Accrued <sup>(5)</sup> :	\$ 1,285,793
Total Expenses Paid or Accrued:	\$ 2,835,912
Expenses Waived <sup>(6)</sup> :	\$ (952,451 )
Total Expenses Paid or Accrued Excluding Expenses Waived <sup>(6)</sup> :	\$ 1,883,461

<sup>(5)</sup> Includes expenses relating to legal fees, auditing fees, printing expenses, licensing fees, tax reporting fees, prepaid insurance expenses and miscellaneous expenses and fees and expenses paid to the independent directors of USCF.

<sup>(6)</sup>

USCF has voluntarily agreed to pay certain expenses typically borne by UNL, to the extent that such expenses exceed 0.15% (15 basis points) of UNL's NAV, on an annualized basis. USCF has no obligation to continue such payments into subsequent periods.

***Expenses Paid or Accrued by UNL from Inception through December 31, 2017 as a Percentage of Average Daily Net Assets:***

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Amount as a Percentage of Average Daily Net Assets</b>
Amount Paid or Accrued to USCF:	0.74% annualized
Amount Paid or Accrued in Portfolio Brokerage Commissions:	0.03% annualized
Other Amounts Paid or Accrued <sup>(7)</sup> :	0.64% annualized
Total Expenses Paid or Accrued:	1.41% annualized
Expenses Waived <sup>(8)</sup> :	(0.47)% annualized
Total Expenses Paid or Accrued Excluding Expenses Waived <sup>(8)</sup> :	0.94% annualized

<sup>(7)</sup> Includes expenses relating to legal fees, auditing fees, printing expenses, licensing fees, tax reporting fees, prepaid insurance expenses and miscellaneous expenses and fees and expenses paid to the independent directors of USCF.

<sup>(8)</sup> USCF has voluntarily agreed to pay certain expenses typically borne by UNL, to the extent that such expenses exceed 0.15% (15 basis points) of UNL's NAV, on an annualized basis. USCF has no obligation to continue such payments into subsequent periods.

**Other Fees.** UNL also pays the fees and expenses associated with its audit, tax accounting and reporting requirements. These fees were approximately \$72,000 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. In addition, UNL is responsible for paying its portion of the directors' and officers' liability insurance for UNL and the Related Public Funds and the fees and expenses of the independent directors who also serve as audit committee members of UNL and the Related Public Funds organized as limited partnerships and, as of July 8, 2011, those Related Public Funds organized as a series of a Delaware statutory trust. UNL shares the fees and expenses on a pro rata basis with each Related Public Fund, as described above, based on the relative assets of each Related Public Fund computed on a daily basis. These fees and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$536,375 for UNL and the Related Public Funds. UNL's portion of such fees and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$1,929.

### **Form of Shares**

**Registered Form.** Shares are issued in registered form in accordance with the LP Agreement. The Administrator has been appointed registrar and transfer agent for the purpose of transferring shares in certificated form. The Administrator keeps a record of all limited partners and holders of the shares in certificated form in the registry. USCF recognizes transfers of shares in certificated form only if done in accordance with the LP Agreement. The beneficial interests in such shares are held in book-entry form through participants and/or accountholders in the Depository Trust Company ("DTC").

**Book Entry.** Individual certificates are not issued for the shares. Instead, shares are represented by one or more global certificates, which are deposited by the Administrator with DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC. The global certificates evidence all of the shares outstanding at any time. Shareholders are limited to (1) participants in DTC such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies ("DTC Participants"), (2) those who maintain, either directly or indirectly, a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant ("Indirect Participants"), and (3) those banks, brokers, dealers, trust companies and others who hold interests in the shares through DTC Participants or Indirect Participants, in each case who satisfy the requirements for transfers of shares. DTC Participants acting on behalf of investors holding shares through such participants' accounts in DTC will follow the delivery practice applicable to securities eligible for DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System. Shares are credited to DTC Participants' securities accounts following confirmation of receipt of payment.

**DTC.** DTC has advised UNL as follows: It is a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York and is a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities for DTC Participants and facilitates the clearance and settlement of transactions

### **Calculating Per Share NAV**



UNL's per share NAV is calculated by:

Taking the current market value of its total assets;  
Subtracting any liabilities; and  
Dividing that total by the total number of outstanding shares.

The Administrator, calculates the per share NAV of UNL once each NYSE Arca trading day. The per share NAV for a normal trading day is released after 4:00 p.m. New York time. Trading during the core trading session on the NYSE Arca typically closes at 4:00 p.m. New York time. The Administrator uses the NYMEX closing price (determined at the earlier of the close of the NYMEX or 2:30 p.m. New York time) for the Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX, but calculates or determines the value of all other UNL investments (including Futures Contracts not traded on the NYMEX, Other Natural Gas-Related Investments and Treasuries) using market quotations, if available, or other information customarily used to determine the fair value of such investments as of the earlier of the close of the NYSE Arca or 4:00 p.m. New York time in accordance with the current Administrative Agency Agreement among BBH&Co., UNL and USCF. "Other information" customarily used in determining fair value includes information consisting of market data in the relevant market supplied by one or more third parties including, without limitation, relevant rates, prices, yields, yield curves, volatilities, spreads, correlations or other market data in the relevant market; or information of the types described above from internal sources if that information is of the same type used by UNL in the regular course of its business for the valuation of similar transactions. The information may include costs of funding, to the extent costs of funding are not and would not be a component of the other information being utilized. Third parties supplying quotations or market data may include, without limitation, dealers in the relevant markets, end-users of the relevant product, information vendors, brokers and other sources of market information.

In addition, in order to provide updated information relating to UNL for use by investors and market professionals, the NYSE Arca calculates and disseminates throughout the core trading session on each trading day an updated indicative fund value. The indicative fund value is calculated by using the prior day's closing per share NAV of UNL as a base and updating that value throughout the trading day to reflect changes in the most recently reported trade price for the active natural gas Futures Contracts on the NYMEX. The prices reported for those Futures Contract months are adjusted based on the prior day's spread differential between settlement values for the relevant contract and the spot month contract. In the event that the spot month contract is also the Benchmark Futures Contracts, the last sale price for that contract is not adjusted. The indicative fund value share basis disseminated during NYSE Arca core trading session hours should not be viewed as an actual real time update of the per share NAV, because the per share NAV is calculated only once at the end of each trading day based upon the relevant end of day values of UNL's investments.

The indicative fund value is disseminated on a per share basis every 15 seconds during regular NYSE Arca core trading session hours of 9:30 a.m. New York time to 4:00 p.m. New York time. The normal trading hours of the NYMEX are 9:00 a.m. New York time to 2:30 p.m. New York time. This means that there is a gap in time at the beginning and the end of each day during which UNL's shares are traded on the NYSE Arca, but real-time NYMEX trading prices for Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX are not available. During such gaps in time, the indicative fund value will be calculated based on the end of day price of such Futures Contracts from the NYMEX's immediately preceding trading session. In addition, other Futures Contracts, Other Natural Gas-Related Investments and Treasuries held by UNL will be valued by the Administrator, using rates and points received from client-approved third party vendors (such as Reuters and WM Company) and advisor quotes. These investments will not be included in the indicative fund value.

Dissemination of the indicative fund value provides additional information that is not otherwise available to the public and is useful to investors and market professionals in connection with the trading of UNL shares on the NYSE Arca. Investors and market professionals are able throughout the trading day to compare the market price of UNL and the indicative fund value. If the market price of UNL shares diverges significantly from the indicative fund value, market professionals will have an incentive to execute arbitrage trades. For example, if UNL appears to be trading at a discount compared to the indicative fund value, a market professional could buy UNL shares on the NYSE Arca and sell short Futures Contracts. Such arbitrage trades can tighten the tracking between the market price of UNL and the indicative fund value and thus can be beneficial to all market participants.

### ***Creation and Redemption of Shares***

UNL creates and redeems shares from time to time, but only in one or more Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets. The creation and redemption of baskets are only made in exchange for delivery to UNL or the distribution by UNL of the amount of Treasuries and any cash represented by the baskets being created or redeemed, the amount of which is based on the combined NAV of the number of shares included in the baskets being created or redeemed determined after 4:00 p.m. New York time on the day the order to create or redeem baskets is properly received.

Authorized Participants are the only persons that may place orders to create and redeem baskets. Authorized Participants must be (1) registered broker-dealers or other securities market participants, such as banks and other financial institutions, that are not required to register as broker-dealers to engage in securities transactions as described below, and (2) DTC Participants. To become an Authorized Participant, a person must enter into an Authorized Participant Agreement with USCF on behalf of UNL (each such agreement, an "Authorized Participant Agreement"). The Authorized Participant Agreement provides the procedures for the creation and redemption of baskets and for the delivery of the Treasuries and any cash required for such creations and redemptions. The Authorized Participant Agreement and the related procedures attached thereto may be amended by UNL, without the consent of any limited partner or shareholder or Authorized Participant. Authorized Participants pay UNL a \$350 fee for each order they place to create or redeem one or more Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets. Authorized Participants who make deposits with UNL in exchange for baskets receive no fees, commissions or other form of compensation or inducement of any kind from either UNL or USCF, and no such person will have any obligation or responsibility to USCF or UNL to effect any sale or resale of shares. As of December 31, 2017, 10 Authorized Participants had entered into agreements with USCF on behalf of UNL. During the year ended December 31, 2017, UNL issued 2 Creation Baskets and redeemed 12 Redemption Baskets.

Certain Authorized Participants are expected to be capable of participating directly in the physical natural gas market and the natural gas futures market. In some cases, Authorized Participants or their affiliates may from time to time buy natural gas or sell natural gas or Natural Gas Interests and may profit in these instances. USCF believes that the size and operation of the natural gas market make it unlikely that an Authorized Participant's direct activities in the natural gas or securities markets will significantly affect the price of natural gas, Natural Gas Interests, or the price of the shares.

Each Authorized Participant is required to be registered as a broker-dealer under the Exchange Act and is a member in good standing with FINRA, or exempt from being or otherwise not required to be registered as a broker-dealer or a member of FINRA, and qualified to act as a broker or dealer in the states or other jurisdictions where the nature of its business so requires. Certain Authorized Participants may also be regulated under federal and state banking laws and regulations. Each Authorized Participant has its own set of rules and procedures, internal controls and information barriers as it determines is appropriate in light of its own regulatory regime.

Under the Authorized Participant Agreement, USCF, and UNL under limited circumstances, have agreed to indemnify the Authorized Participants against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to the payments the Authorized Participants may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The following description of the procedures for the creation and redemption of baskets is only a summary and an investor should refer to the relevant provisions of the LP Agreement and the form of Authorized Participant Agreement for more detail, each of which is incorporated by reference into this annual report on Form 10-K.

### ***Creation Procedures***

On any business day, an Authorized Participant may place an order with the Marketing Agent to create one or more baskets. For purposes of processing purchase and redemption orders, a "business day" means any day other than a day when any of the NYSE Arca, the NYMEX or the NYSE is closed for regular trading. Purchase orders must be placed by 12:00 p.m. New York time or the close of regular trading on the NYSE Arca, whichever is earlier. The day on which the Marketing Agent receives a valid purchase order is referred to as the purchase order date.

By placing a purchase order, an Authorized Participant agrees to deposit Treasuries, cash, or a combination of Treasuries and cash, as described below. Prior to the delivery of baskets for a purchase order, the Authorized Participant must also have wired to the Custodian the non-refundable transaction fee due for the purchase order. Authorized Participants may not withdraw a creation request, except as otherwise set forth in the procedures in the Authorized Participant Agreement.

The manner by which creations are made is dictated by the terms of the Authorized Participant Agreement. By placing a purchase order, an Authorized Participant agrees to (1) deposit Treasuries, cash or a combination of Treasuries and cash with the Custodian, and (2) if required by USCF in its sole discretion, enter into or arrange for a block trade, an exchange for physical or exchange for swap, or any other OTC energy transaction (through itself or a designated acceptable broker) with UNL for the purchase of a number and type of futures contracts at the closing settlement price for such contracts on the purchase order date. If an Authorized Participant fails to consummate (1) and (2), the order shall be cancelled. The number and type of contracts specified shall be determined by USCF, in its sole discretion, to meet UNL's investment objective and shall be purchased as a result of the Authorized Participant's purchase of shares.

### ***Determination of Required Deposits***

The total deposit required to create each basket (“Creation Basket Deposit”) is the amount of Treasuries and/or cash that is in the same proportion to the total assets of UNL (net of estimated accrued but unpaid fees, expenses and other liabilities) on the purchase order date as the number of shares to be created under the purchase order is in proportion to the total number of shares outstanding on the purchase order dates. USCF determines, directly in its sole discretion or in consultation with the Administrator, the requirements for Treasuries and the amount of cash, including the maximum permitted remaining maturity of a Treasury and proportions of Treasury and cash that may be included in deposits to create baskets. The Marketing Agent will publish such requirements at the beginning of each business day. The amount of cash deposit required is the difference between the aggregate market value of the Treasuries required to be included in a Creation Basket Deposit as of 4:00 p.m. New York time on the date the order to purchase is properly received and the total required deposit.

### ***Delivery of Required Deposits***

An Authorized Participant who places a purchase order is responsible for transferring to UNL’s account with the Custodian the required amount of Treasuries and cash by the end of the second business day following the purchase order date. Upon receipt of the deposit amount, the Administrator directs DTC to credit the number of baskets ordered to the Authorized Participant’s DTC account on the second business day following the purchase order date. The expense and risk of delivery and ownership of Treasuries until such Treasuries have been received by the Custodian on behalf of UNL shall be borne solely by the Authorized Participant.

Because orders to purchase baskets must be placed by 12:00 p.m., New York time, but the total payment required to create a basket during the continuous offering period will not be determined until after 4:00 p.m. New York time on the date the purchase order is received, Authorized Participants will not know the total amount of the payment required to create a basket at the time they submit an irrevocable purchase order for the basket. UNL’s per share NAV and the total amount of the payment required to create a basket could rise or fall substantially between the time an irrevocable purchase order is submitted and the time the amount of the purchase price in respect thereof is determined.

### ***Rejection of Purchase Orders***

USCF acting by itself or through the Marketing Agent shall have the absolute right but no obligation to reject a purchase order or a Creation Basket Deposit if:

it determines that the investment alternative available to UNL at that time will not enable it to meet its investment objective;

· it determines that the purchase order or the Creation Basket Deposit is not in proper form;

it believes that the purchase order or the Creation Basket Deposit would have adverse tax consequences to UNL, the limited partners or its shareholders;

· the acceptance or receipt of the Creation Basket Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel to USCF, be unlawful; or circumstances outside the control of USCF, Marketing Agent or Custodian make it, for all practical purposes, not feasible to process creations of baskets.

None of USCF, the Marketing Agent or the Custodian will be liable for the rejection of any purchase order or Creation Basket Deposit.

### ***Redemption Procedures***

The procedures by which an Authorized Participant can redeem one or more baskets mirror the procedures for the creation of baskets. On any business day, an Authorized Participant may place an order with the Marketing Agent to redeem one or more baskets. Redemption orders must be placed by 12:00 p.m. New York time or the close of regular trading on the NYSE Arca, whichever is earlier. A redemption order so received will be effective on the date it is received in satisfactory form by the Marketing Agent (“Redemption Order Date”). The redemption procedures allow Authorized Participants to redeem baskets and do not entitle an individual shareholder to redeem any shares in an amount less than a Redemption Basket, or to redeem baskets other than through an Authorized Participant.

By placing a redemption order, an Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the baskets to be redeemed through DTC's book-entry system to UNL, as described below. Prior to the delivery of the redemption distribution for a redemption order, the Authorized Participant must also have wired to UNL's account at the Custodian the non-refundable transaction fee due for the redemption order. An Authorized Participant may not withdraw a redemption order, except as otherwise set forth in the procedures in the Authorized Participant Agreement.

The manner by which redemptions are made is dictated by the terms of the Authorized Participant Agreement. By placing a redemption order, an Authorized Participant agrees to (1) deliver the Redemption Basket to be redeemed through DTC's book-entry system to UNL's account with the Custodian not later than 3:00 p.m. New York time on the second business day following the effective date of the redemption order ("Redemption Distribution Date"), and (2) if required by USCF in its sole discretion, enter into or arrange for a block trade, an exchange for physical or exchange for swap, or any other OTC energy transaction (through itself or a designated acceptable broker) with UNL for the sale of a number and type of futures contracts at the closing settlement price for such contracts on the Redemption Order Date. If an Authorized Participant fails to consummate (1) and (2) above, the order shall be cancelled. The number and type of contracts specified shall be determined by USCF, in its sole discretion, to meet UNL's investment objective and shall be sold as a result of the Authorized Participant's sale of shares.

#### ***Determination of Redemption Distribution***

The redemption distribution from UNL consists of a transfer to the redeeming Authorized Participant of an amount of Treasuries and/or cash that is in the same proportion to the total assets of UNL (net of estimated accrued but unpaid fees, expenses and other liabilities) on the date the order to redeem is properly received as the number of shares to be redeemed under the redemption order is in proportion to the total number of shares outstanding on the date the order is received. USCF, directly or in consultation with the Administrator, determines the requirements for Treasuries and the amounts of cash, including the maximum permitted remaining maturity of a Treasury, and the proportions of Treasuries and cash that may be included in distributions to redeem baskets. The Marketing Agent will publish an estimate of the redemption distribution per basket as of the beginning of each business day.

#### ***Delivery of Redemption Distribution***

The redemption distribution due from UNL will be delivered to the Authorized Participant by 3:00 p.m. New York time on the second business day following the redemption order date if, by 3:00 p.m. New York time on such second business day, UNL's DTC account has been credited with the baskets to be redeemed. If UNL's DTC account has not been credited with all of the baskets to be redeemed by such time, the redemption distribution will be delivered to the extent of whole baskets received. Any remainder of the redemption distribution will be delivered on the next business day to the extent of remaining whole baskets received if UNL receives the fee applicable to the extension of the redemption distribution date which USCF may, from time to time, determine and the remaining baskets to be



redeemed are credited to UNL's DTC account by 3:00 p.m. New York time on such next business day. Any further outstanding amount of the redemption order shall be cancelled. Pursuant to information from USCF, the Custodian will also be authorized to deliver the redemption distribution notwithstanding that the baskets to be redeemed are not credited to UNL's DTC account by 3:00 p.m. New York time on the second business day following the redemption order date if the Authorized Participant has collateralized its obligation to deliver the baskets through DTC's book entry-system on such terms as USCF may from time to time determine.

***Suspension or Rejection of Redemption Orders***

USCF may, in its discretion, suspend the right of redemption, or postpone the redemption settlement date, (1) for any period during which the NYSE Arca or the NYMEX is closed other than customary weekend or holiday closings, or trading on the NYSE Arca or the NYMEX is suspended or restricted, (2) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which delivery, disposal or evaluation of Treasuries is not reasonably practicable, or (3) for such other period as USCF determines to be necessary for the protection of the limited partners or shareholders. For example, USCF may determine that it is necessary to suspend redemptions to allow for the orderly liquidation of UNL's assets at an appropriate value to fund a redemption. If USCF has difficulty liquidating its positions, e.g., because of a market disruption event in the futures markets, a suspension of trading by the exchange where the futures contracts are listed or an unanticipated delay in the liquidation of a position in an OTC contract, it may be appropriate to suspend redemptions until such time as such circumstances are rectified. None of USCF, the Marketing Agent, the Administrator, or the Custodian will be liable to any person or in any way for any loss or damages that may result from any such suspension or postponement.

Redemption orders must be made in whole baskets. USCF will reject a redemption order if the order is not in proper form as described in the Authorized Participant Agreement or if the fulfillment of the order, in the opinion of its counsel, might be unlawful. USCF may also reject a redemption order if the number of shares being redeemed would reduce the remaining outstanding shares to 100,000 shares (i.e., two baskets) or less.

### ***Creation and Redemption Transaction Fee***

To compensate UNL for its expenses in connection with the creation and redemption of baskets, an Authorized Participant is required to pay a transaction fee to UNL per order to create or redeem baskets, regardless of the number of baskets in such order. Authorized Participants pay UNL a \$350 fee for each order they place to create or redeem one or more Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets. The transaction fee may be reduced, increased or otherwise changed by USCF. USCF shall notify DTC of any change in the transaction fee and will not implement any increase in the fee for the redemption of baskets until 30 days after the date of the notice.

### ***Tax Responsibility***

Authorized Participants are responsible for any transfer tax, sales or use tax, stamp tax, recording tax, value added tax or similar tax or governmental charge applicable to the creation or redemption of baskets, regardless of whether or not such tax or charge is imposed directly on the Authorized Participant, and agree to indemnify USCF and UNL if they are required by law to pay any such tax, together with any applicable penalties, additions to tax and interest thereon.

### ***Secondary Market Transactions***

As noted, UNL creates and redeems shares from time to time, but only in one or more Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets. The creation and redemption of baskets are only made in exchange for delivery to UNL or the distribution by UNL of the amount of Treasuries and cash represented by the baskets being created or redeemed, the amount of which will be based on the aggregate NAV of the number of shares included in the baskets being created or redeemed determined on the day the order to create or redeem baskets is properly received.

As discussed above, Authorized Participants are the only persons that may place orders to create and redeem baskets. Authorized Participants must be registered broker-dealers or other securities market participants, such as banks and other financial institutions that are not required to register as broker-dealers to engage in securities transactions. An Authorized Participant is under no obligation to create or redeem baskets, and an Authorized Participant is under no

obligation to offer to the public shares of any baskets it does create. Authorized Participants that do offer to the public shares from the baskets they create will do so at per-share offering prices that are expected to reflect, among other factors, the trading price of the shares on the NYSE Arca, the NAV of UNL at the time the Authorized Participant purchased the Creation Baskets and the per share NAV of the shares at the time of the offer of the shares to the public, the supply of and demand for shares at the time of sale, and the liquidity of the Futures Contract market and the market for Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. The prices of shares offered by Authorized Participants are expected to fall between UNL's per share NAV and the trading price of the shares on the NYSE Arca at the time of sale. Shares initially comprising the same basket but offered by Authorized Participants to the public at different times may have different offering prices. An order for one or more baskets may be placed by an Authorized Participant on behalf of multiple clients. Authorized Participants who make deposits with UNL in exchange for baskets receive no fees, commissions or other form of compensation or inducement of any kind from either UNL or USCF, and no such person has any obligation or responsibility to USCF or UNL to effect any sale or resale of shares. Shares trade in the secondary market on the NYSE Arca. Shares may trade in the secondary market at prices that are lower or higher relative to their per share NAV. The amount of the discount or premium in the trading price relative to the per share NAV may be influenced by various factors, including the number of investors who seek to purchase or sell shares in the secondary market and the liquidity of the Futures Contracts market and the market for Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. While the shares trade during the core trading session on the NYSE Arca until 4:00 p.m. New York time, liquidity in the market for Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments may be reduced after the close of the NYMEX at 2:30 p.m. New York time. As a result, during this time, trading spreads, and the resulting premium or discount, on the shares may widen.

## Investments

USCF causes UNL to transfer the proceeds from the sale of Creation Baskets to the Custodian or other custodian for trading activities. USCF will invest UNL's assets in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments and investments in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents. When UNL purchases a Futures Contract and certain exchange-traded Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, UNL is required to deposit 5% to 30% with the selling FCM on behalf of the exchange a portion of the value of the contract or other interest as security to ensure payment for the obligation under Natural Gas Interests at maturity. This deposit is known as initial margin. Counterparties in transactions in OTC Natural Gas Interests will generally impose similar collateral requirements on UNL. USCF will invest the assets that remain after margin and collateral are posted in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents subject to these margin and collateral requirements. USCF has sole authority to determine the percentage of assets that are:

held on deposit with the FCM or other custodian,  
used for other investments, and  
held in bank accounts to pay current obligations and as reserves.

Ongoing margin and collateral payments will generally be required for both exchange-traded and OTC Natural Gas Interests based on changes in the value of the Natural Gas Interests. Furthermore, ongoing collateral requirements with respect to OTC Natural Gas Interests are negotiated by the parties, and may be affected by overall market volatility, volatility of the underlying commodity or index, the ability of the counterparty to hedge its exposure under a Natural Gas Interest and each party's creditworthiness. In light of the differing requirements for initial payments under exchange-traded and OTC Natural Gas Interests and the fluctuating nature of ongoing margin and collateral payments, it is not possible to estimate what portion of UNL's assets will be posted as margin or collateral at any given time. The Treasuries, cash and cash equivalents held by UNL will constitute reserves that will be available to meet ongoing margin and collateral requirements. All interest income will be used for UNL's benefit.

An FCM, counterparty, government agency or commodity exchange could increase margin or collateral requirements applicable to UNL to hold trading positions at any time. Moreover, margin is merely a security deposit and has no bearing on the profit or loss potential for any positions held.

The assets of UNL posted as margin for Futures Contracts are held in segregated accounts pursuant to the CEA and CFTC regulations.

If UNL enters into a swap agreement, UNL must post both collateral and independent amounts to its swap counterparties. The amount of collateral UNL posts changes according to the amounts owed by UNL to its counterparty on a given swap transaction, while independent amounts are fixed amounts posted by UNL at the start of

a swap transaction. Collateral and independent amounts posted to swap counterparties will be held by a third party custodian.

## **The Commodity Interest Markets**

### *General*

The CEA governs the regulation of commodity interest transactions, markets and intermediaries. The CEA provides for varying degrees of regulation of commodity interest transactions depending upon: (1) the type of instrument being traded (e.g., contracts for future delivery, forwards, options, swaps or spot contracts), (2) the type of commodity underlying the instrument (distinctions are made between instruments based on agricultural commodities, energy and metals commodities and financial commodities), (3) the nature of the parties to the transaction (e.g. retail or eligible contract participant), (4) whether the transaction is entered into on a principal-to-principal or intermediated basis, (5) the type of market on which the transaction occurs, and (6) whether the transaction is subject to clearing through a clearing organization.

The offer and sale of shares of UNL, as well as shares of each Related Public Fund, is registered under the Securities Act. UNL and the Related Public Funds are subject to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder as administered by the SEC. Firms' participation in the distribution of shares is regulated as described above, as well as by the self-regulatory association, FINRA.

### ***Futures Contracts***

A futures contract is a standardized contract traded on, or subject to the rules of, an exchange that calls for the future delivery of a specified quantity and type of a commodity at a specified time and place. Futures contracts are traded on a wide variety of commodities, including agricultural products, bonds, stock indices, interest rates, currencies, energy and metals. The size and terms of futures contracts on a particular commodity are identical and are not subject to any negotiation, other than with respect to price and the number of contracts traded between the buyer and seller.

The contractual obligations of a buyer or seller may generally be satisfied by taking or making physical delivery of the underlying commodity or by making an offsetting sale or purchase of an identical futures contract on the same or linked exchange before the designated date of delivery. The difference between the price at which the futures contract is purchased or sold and the price paid for the offsetting sale or purchase, after allowance for brokerage commissions, constitutes the profit or loss to the trader. Some futures contracts, such as stock index contracts, settle in cash (reflecting the difference between the contract purchase/sale price and the contract settlement price) rather than by delivery of the underlying commodity.

In market terminology, a trader who purchases a futures contract is long in the market and a trader who sells a futures contract is short in the market. Before a trader closes out his long or short position by an offsetting sale or purchase, his outstanding contracts are known as open trades or open positions. The aggregate amount of open positions held by traders in a particular contract is referred to as the open interest in such contract.

### ***Forward Contracts***

A forward contract is a contractual obligation to purchase or sell a specified quantity of a commodity at or before a specified date in the future at a specified price and, therefore, is economically similar to a futures contract. Unlike futures contracts, however, forward contracts are typically traded in the OTC markets and are not standardized contracts. Forward contracts for a given commodity are generally available for various amounts and maturities and are subject to individual negotiation between the parties involved. Moreover, generally there is no direct means of offsetting or closing out a forward contract by taking an offsetting position as one would a futures contract on a U.S. exchange. If a trader desires to close out a forward contract position, he generally will establish an opposite position in the contract but will settle and recognize the profit or loss on both positions simultaneously on the delivery date. Thus, unlike in the futures contract market where a trader who has offset positions will recognize profit or loss immediately, in the forward market a trader with a position that has been offset at a profit will generally not receive such profit until the delivery date, and likewise a trader with a position that has been offset at a loss will generally not have to pay money until the delivery date. Nevertheless, in some instances forward contracts now provide a right of offset or cash settlement as an alternative to making or taking delivery of the underlying commodity.

In general, the CFTC does not regulate the interbank and forward foreign currency markets with respect to transactions in contracts between certain sophisticated counterparties such as UNL or between certain regulated institutions and retail investors. Although U.S. banks are regulated in various ways by the Federal Reserve Board, the Comptroller of the Currency and other U.S. federal and state banking officials, banking authorities do not regulate the forward markets to the same extent that the swap markets are regulated by the CFTC and SEC.

Regulation exempts both foreign exchange swaps and foreign exchange forwards from the definition of “swap” and, by extension, certain regulatory requirements applicable to swaps (such as clearing and margin). The final exemption does not extend to other foreign exchange derivatives, such as foreign exchange options, currency swaps, and non-deliverable forwards.

While the U.S. government does not currently impose any restrictions on the movements of currencies, it could choose to do so. The imposition or relaxation of exchange controls in various jurisdictions could significantly affect the market for that and other jurisdictions’ currencies. Trading in the interbank market also exposes UNL to a risk of default since failure of a bank with which UNL had entered into a forward contract would likely result in a default and thus possibly substantial losses to UNL.

### *Options on Futures Contracts*

Options on futures contracts are standardized contracts traded on an exchange. An option on a futures contract gives the buyer of the option the right, but not the obligation, to take a position at a specified price (the striking, strike, or exercise price) in the underlying futures contract or underlying interest. The buyer of a call option acquires the right, but not the obligation, to purchase or take a long position in the underlying interest, and the buyer of a put option acquires the right, but not the obligation, to sell or take a short position in the underlying interest.

The seller, or writer, of an option is obligated to take a position in the underlying interest at a specified price opposite to the option buyer if the option is exercised. The seller of a call option must stand ready to take a short position in the underlying interest at the strike price if the buyer should exercise the option. The seller of a put option, on the other hand, must stand ready to take a long position in the underlying interest at the strike price.

A call option is said to be in-the-money if the strike price is below current market levels and out-of-the-money if the strike price is above current market levels. Conversely, a put option is said to be in-the-money if the strike price is above the current market levels and out-of-the-money if the strike price is below current market levels.

Options have limited life spans, usually tied to the delivery or settlement date of the underlying interest. Some options, however, expire significantly in advance of such date. The purchase price of an option is referred to as its premium, which consists of its intrinsic value (which is related to the underlying market value) plus its time value. As an option nears its expiration date, the time value shrinks and the market and intrinsic values move into parity. An option that is out-of-the-money and not offset by the time it expires becomes worthless. On certain exchanges, in-the-money options are automatically exercised on their expiration date, but on others unexercised options simply become worthless after their expiration date.

Regardless of how much the market swings, the most an option buyer can lose is the option premium. The option buyer deposits his premium with his broker, and the money goes to the option seller. Option sellers, on the other hand, face risks similar to participants in the futures markets. For example, since the seller of a call option is assigned a short futures position if the option is exercised, his risk is the same as someone who initially sold a futures contract. Because no one can predict exactly how the market will move, the option seller typically posts margin to demonstrate his ability to meet any potential contractual obligations.

### *Options on Forward Contracts or Commodities*



Options on forward contracts or commodities operate in a manner similar to options on futures contracts. An option on a forward contract or commodity gives the buyer of the option the right, but not the obligation, to take a position at a specified price in the underlying forward contract or commodity. However, unlike options on futures contracts, options on forward contracts or on commodities are individually negotiated contracts between counterparties and are typically traded in the OTC market. Therefore, options on forward contracts and physical commodities possess many of the same characteristics of forward contracts with respect to offsetting positions and credit risk that are described above.

### *Swap Contracts*

Swap transactions generally involve contracts between two parties to exchange a stream of payments computed by reference to a notional amount and the price of the asset that is the subject of the swap. Swap contracts are principally traded off-exchange, although certain swap contracts are also being traded in electronic trading facilities and cleared through clearing organizations.

Swaps are usually entered into on a net basis, that is, the two payment streams are netted out in a cash settlement on the payment date or dates specified in the agreement, with the parties receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. Swaps do not generally involve the delivery of underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, the risk of loss with respect to swaps is generally limited to the net amount of payments that the party is contractually obligated to make. In some swap transactions one or both parties may require collateral deposits from the counterparty to support that counterparty's obligation under the swap agreement. If the counterparty to such a swap defaults, the risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that the party is contractually entitled to receive less any collateral deposits it is holding.

Some swap transactions are cleared through central counterparties. “Clearing” refers to the process by which a trade that is bilaterally executed by two parties is submitted to a central clearing counterparty, via a clearing member (i.e., an FCM), and replaced by two mirror swaps, with the central clearing counterparty becoming the counterparty to both of the initial parties to the swap. These transactions, known as cleared swaps, involve two counterparties first agreeing to the terms of a swap transaction, then submitting the transaction to a clearing house that acts as the central counterparty. Once accepted by the clearing house, the original swap transaction is terminated and replaced by two mirror trades for which the central counterparty becomes the counterparty to a trade with each of the original parties based upon the trade terms determined in the original transaction. In this manner each individual swap counterparty reduces its risk of loss due to counterparty nonperformance because the clearing house acts as the counterparty to each of the original parties based upon the trade terms determined in the original transaction. In this manner each individual swap counterparty reduces its risk of loss due to counterparty nonperformance because the clearing house acts as the counterparty to each transaction.

## **Commodities Regulation**

Futures exchanges in the United States are subject to varying degrees of regulation under the CEA depending on whether such exchange is a designated contract market, exempt board of trade or electronic trading facility. Clearing organizations are also subject to the CEA and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder and administered by the CFTC. The CFTC is the governmental agency charged with responsibility for regulation of futures exchanges and commodity interest trading. The CFTC’s function is to implement the CEA’s objectives of preventing price manipulation and excessive speculation and promoting orderly and efficient commodity interest markets. In addition, the various exchanges and clearing organizations themselves exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over their member firms.

The CFTC also regulates the activities of “commodity trading advisors” and “commodity pool operators” and the CFTC has adopted regulations with respect to certain of such persons’ activities. Pursuant to its authority, the CFTC requires a CPO, such as USCF, to keep accurate, current and orderly records with respect to each pool it operates. The CFTC may suspend, modify or terminate the registration of any registrant for failure to comply with CFTC rules or regulations. Suspension, restriction or termination of USCF’s registration as a CPO would prevent it, until such time (if any) as such registration were to be reinstated, from managing, and might result in the termination of, UNL or the Related Public Funds.

Under certain circumstances, the CEA grants shareholders the right to institute a reparations proceeding before the CFTC against USCF (as a registered commodity pool operator), as well as those of their respective employees who are required to be registered under the CEA. Shareholders may also be able to maintain a private right of action for certain violations of the CEA.

Pursuant to authority in the CEA, the NFA has been formed and registered with the CFTC as a registered futures association. The NFA is the only self-regulatory association for commodities professionals other than the exchanges. As such, the NFA promulgates rules governing the conduct of commodity professionals and disciplines those professionals that do not comply with such standards. The CFTC has delegated to the NFA responsibility for the registration of commodity pool operators. USCF is a member of the NFA. As a member of the NFA, USCF is subject to NFA standards relating to fair trade practices, financial condition and consumer protection.

The CEA requires all FCMs, i.e. UNL's clearing brokers, to meet and maintain specified fitness and financial requirements, to segregate customer funds from proprietary funds and account separately for all customers' funds and positions, and to maintain specified books and records open to inspection by the staff of the CFTC. The CFTC has similar authority over introducing brokers, or persons who solicit or accept orders for commodity interest trades but who do not accept margin deposits for the execution of trades. The CEA authorizes the CFTC to regulate trading by FCMs and by their officers and directors, permits the CFTC to require action by exchanges in the event of market emergencies, and establishes an administrative procedure under which customers may institute complaints for damages arising from alleged violations of the CEA.

The regulations of the CFTC and the NFA prohibit any representation by a person registered with the CFTC or by any member of the NFA, that registration with the CFTC, or membership in the NFA, in any respect indicates that the CFTC or the NFA, as the case may be, has approved or endorsed that person or that person's trading program or objectives. The registrations and memberships of the parties described in this summary must not be considered as constituting any such approval or endorsement. Likewise, no futures exchange has given or will give any similar approval or endorsement.

CFTC regulations require enhanced customer protections, risk management programs, internal monitoring and controls, capital and liquidity standards, customer disclosures and auditing and examination programs for FCMs. These regulations are intended to afford greater assurances to market participants that customer segregated funds and secured amounts are protected, customers are provided with appropriate notice of the risks of futures trading and of the FCMs with which they may choose to do business, FCMs are monitoring and managing risks in a robust manner, the capital and liquidity of FCMs are strengthened to safeguard the continued operations, and the auditing and examination programs of the CFTC and the self-regulatory organizations are monitoring the activities of FCMs in a thorough manner.

UNL's investors are afforded prescribed rights for reparations under the CEA against USCF (as a registered commodity pool operator), as well as its respective employees who are required to be registered under the CEA. Investors may also be able to maintain a private right of action for violations of the CEA. The CFTC has adopted rules implementing the reparation provisions of the CEA, which provide that any person may file a complaint for a reparations award with the CFTC for violation of the CEA against a floor broker or an FCM, introducing broker, commodity trading advisor, CPO, and their respective associated persons.

The regulation of commodity interest trading in the United States and other countries is an evolving area of the law. Below are discussed several key regulatory items that are relevant to UNL. The various statements made in this summary are subject to modification by legislative action and changes in the rules and regulations of the CFTC, the NFA, the futures exchanges, clearing organizations and other regulatory bodies. In addition, with regard to any other rules that the CFTC or SEC may adopt in the future, the effect of any such regulatory changes on UNL is impossible to predict, but it could be substantial and adverse.

### ***Futures Contracts and Position Limits***

The CFTC is generally prohibited by statute from regulating trading on non-U.S. futures exchanges and markets. The CFTC, however, has adopted regulations relating to the marketing of non-U.S. futures contracts in the United States. These regulations permit certain contracts on non-U.S. exchanges to be offered and sold in the United States.

As discussed above, the CFTC has proposed to adopt limits on speculative positions in 25 physical commodity futures and option contracts as well as swaps that are economically equivalent to such contracts in the agriculture, energy and metals markets. The Position Limit Rules would, among other things: identify which contracts are subject to speculative position limits; set thresholds that restrict the size of speculative positions that a person may hold in the spot month, other individual months, and all months combined; create an exemption for positions that constitute bona fide hedging transactions; impose responsibilities on DCMs and SEFs to establish position limits or, in some cases, position accountability rules; and apply to both futures and swaps across four relevant venues: OTC, DCMs, SEFs as well as certain non-U.S. located platforms. The CFTC's first attempt at finalizing the Position Limit Rules, in 2011,

was successfully challenged by market participants in 2012 and, since then, the CFTC has re-proposed them and solicited comments from market participants multiple times. At this time, it is unclear how the Position Limit Rules may affect UNL, but the effect may be substantial and adverse. By way of example, the Position Limit Rules may negatively impact the ability of UNL to meet its investment objectives through limits that may inhibit USCF's ability to sell additional Creation Baskets of UNL. See *"The Commodity Interest Markets-Commodities Regulation"* in this annual report on Form 10-K for additional information.

Until such time as the Position Limit Rules are adopted, the regulatory architecture in effect prior to the adoption of the Position Limit Rules will govern transactions in commodities and related derivatives. Under that system, the CFTC enforces federal limits on speculation in nine agricultural products (e.g., corn, wheat and soy), while futures exchanges establish and enforce position limits and accountability levels for other agricultural products and certain energy products (e.g., oil and natural gas). As a result, UNL may be limited with respect to the size of its investments in any commodities subject to these limits.

Under existing and recently adopted CFTC regulations, for the purpose of position limits, a market participant is generally required, subject to certain narrow exceptions, to aggregate all positions for which that participant controls the trading decisions with all positions for which that participant has a 10 percent or greater ownership interest in an account or position, as well as the positions of two or more persons acting pursuant to an express or implied agreement or understanding with that participant. The Aggregation Rules will also apply with respect to the Position Limit Rules if and when such Position Limit Rules are adopted.

## **Margin Requirements**

### Futures and Clear Swaps

Original or initial margin is the minimum amount of funds that must be deposited by a commodity interest trader with the trader's broker to initiate and maintain an open position in futures contracts. Maintenance margin is the amount (generally less than the original margin) to which a trader's account may decline before he must deliver additional margin. A margin deposit is like a cash performance bond. It helps assure the trader's performance of the futures contracts that he or she purchases or sells.

Futures contracts are customarily bought and sold on initial margin that represents a very small percentage (ranging upward from 5%) of the aggregate purchase or sales price of the contract. Because of such low margin requirements, price fluctuations occurring in the futures markets may create profits and losses that, in relation to the amount invested, are greater than are customary in other forms of investment or speculation. As discussed below, adverse price changes in the futures contract may result in margin requirements that greatly exceed the initial margin. In addition, the amount of margin required in connection with a particular futures contract is set from time to time by the exchange on which the contract is traded and may be modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the contract.

Brokerage firms, such as UNL's clearing brokers, carrying accounts for traders in commodity interest contracts may not accept lower, and generally require higher, amounts of margin as a matter of policy to further protect themselves. The clearing brokers require UNL to make margin deposits equal to exchange minimum levels for all commodity interest contracts. This requirement may be altered from time to time in the clearing brokers' discretion.

Margin requirements are computed each day by the relevant clearing organization and a trader's clearing broker. When the market value of a particular open commodity interest position changes to a point where the margin on deposit does not satisfy maintenance margin requirements, a margin call is made by the broker. With respect to trading by UNL, UNL (and not its investors personally) is subject to margin calls.

Finally, many major U.S. exchanges have passed certain cross margining arrangements involving procedures pursuant to which the futures and options positions held in an account would, in the case of some accounts, be aggregated and margin requirements would be assessed on a portfolio basis, measuring the total risk of the combined positions.

## Options

When a trader purchases an option, there is no margin requirement; however, the option premium must be paid in full. When a trader sells an option, on the other hand, he or she may be required to deposit margin in an amount determined by the margin requirements established for the underlying interest and, in addition, an amount substantially equal to the current premium for the option. The margin requirements imposed on the selling of options, although adjusted to reflect the probability that out-of-the-money options will not be exercised, can in fact be higher than those imposed in dealing in the futures markets directly. Complicated margin requirements apply to spreads and conversions, which are complex trading strategies in which a trader acquires a mixture of options positions and positions in the underlying interest.

## OTC Swaps

In October 2015, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC, the Farm Credit Administration, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (each an “Agency” and, collectively, the “Agencies”) jointly adopted final rules to establish minimum margin and capital requirements for registered swap dealers, major swap participants, security-based swap dealers, and major security-based swap participants (“Swap Entities”) that are subject to the jurisdiction of one of the Agencies (such entities, “Covered Swap Entities”, and the joint final rules, the “Final Margin Rules”).

The Final Margin Rules will subject non-cleared swaps and non-cleared security-based swaps between Covered Swap Entities and Swap Entities, and between Covered Swap Entities and financial end users that have material swaps exposure (i.e., an average daily aggregate notional of \$8 billion or more in non-cleared swaps calculated in accordance with the Final Margin Rules), to a mandatory two-way minimum initial margin requirement. The minimum amount of the initial margin required to be posted or collected would be either the amount calculated by the Covered Swap Entity using a standardized schedule set forth as an appendix to the Final Margin Rules, which provides the gross initial margin (as a percentage of total notional exposure) for certain asset classes, or an internal margin model of the Covered Swap Entity conforming to the requirements of the Final Margin Rules that is approved by the Agency having jurisdiction over the particular Covered Swap Entity. The Final Margin Rules specify the types of collateral that may be posted or collected as initial margin for non-cleared swaps and non-cleared security-based swaps with financial end users (generally cash, certain government, government-sponsored enterprise securities, certain liquid debt, certain equity securities, certain eligible publicly traded debt, and gold); and sets forth haircuts for certain collateral asset classes.

The Final Margin Rules require minimum variation margin to be exchanged daily for non-cleared swaps and non-cleared security-based swaps between Covered Swap Entities and Swap Entities and between Covered Swap Entities and all financial end-users (without regard to the swaps exposure of the particular financial end-user). The minimum variation margin amount is the daily mark-to-market change in the value of the swap to the Covered Swap Entity, taking into account variation margin previously posted or collected. For non-cleared swaps and security-based swaps between Covered Swap Entities and financial end-users, variation margin may be posted or collected in cash or non-cash collateral that is considered eligible for initial margin purposes. Variation margin is not subject to segregation with an independent, third-party custodian, and may, if permitted by contract, be rehypothecated.

The initial margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules are being phased in over time, and the variation margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules are currently in effect. The Fund is not a Covered Swap Entity under the Final Margin Rules but it is a financial end-user. Accordingly, the Fund is currently subject to the variation margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules. However, the Fund does not have material swaps exposure and, accordingly, the Fund will not be subject to the initial margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required the CFTC and the SEC to adopt their own margin rules to apply to a limited number of registered swap dealers, security-based swap dealers, major swap participants, and major security-based swap participants that are not subject to the jurisdiction of one of the Agencies. On December 16, 2015 the CFTC finalized its margin rules, which are substantially the same as the Final Margin Rules and have the same implementation timeline. The SEC has yet to finalize its margin rules.

### ***Mandatory Trading and Clearing of Swaps***



CFTC regulations require that certain swap transactions be executed on organized exchanges or “swap execution facilities” and cleared through regulated clearing organizations (“derivative clearing organizations” (“DCOs”)), if the CFTC mandates the central clearing of a particular class of swap and such swap is “made available to trade” on a swap execution facility. Currently, swap dealers, major swap participants, commodity pools, certain private funds and entities predominantly engaged in activities that are financial in nature are required to execute on a swap execution facility, and clear, certain interest rate swaps and index-based credit default swaps. As a result, if UNL enters into an interest rate or index-based credit default swaps that is subject to these requirements, such swap will be required to be executed on a swap execution facility and centrally cleared. Mandatory clearing and “made available to trade” determinations with respect to additional types of swaps are expected in the future, and, when finalized, could require UNL to electronically execute and centrally clear certain OTC instruments presently entered into and settled on a bi-lateral basis. If a swap is required to be cleared, initial and variation margin requirements are set by the relevant clearing organization, subject to certain regulatory requirements and guidelines. Additional margin may be required and held by UNL’s FCM.

### ***Other Requirements for Swaps***

In addition to the margin requirements described above, swaps that are not required to be cleared and executed on an SEF but that are executed bilaterally are also subject to various requirements pursuant to CFTC regulations, including, among other things, reporting and recordkeeping requirements and, depending on the status of the counterparties, trading documentation requirements and dispute resolution requirements.

### ***Derivatives Regulations in Non-U.S. Jurisdictions***

In addition to U.S. laws and regulations, UNL may be subject to non-U.S. derivatives laws and regulations if it engages in futures and/or swaps transactions with non-U.S. persons. For example, UNL may be impacted by European laws and regulations to the extent that it engages in futures transactions on European exchanges or derivatives transactions with European entities. Other jurisdictions impose requirements applicable to futures and derivatives that are similar to those imposed by the U.S., including position limits, margin, clearing and trade execution requirements.

### **SEC Reports**

UNL makes available, free of charge, on its website, its annual reports on Form 10-K, its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, its current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after these forms are filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. These reports are also available from the SEC through its website at: [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **CFTC Reports**

UNL also makes available its monthly reports and its annual reports required to be prepared and filed with the NFA under the CFTC regulations.

### **Intellectual Property**

USCF owns trademark registrations for the UNITED STATES 12 MONTH NATURAL GAS FUND (U.S. Reg. No. 3783071) for “financial investment services in the field of natural gas futures contracts, cash-settled options on natural gas futures contracts, forward contracts for natural gas, over-the-counter transactions based on the price of natural gas, and indices based on the foregoing,” in use since November 18, 2009, UNL UNITED STATES 12 MONTH NATURAL GAS FUND, LP (and 12 and Flame Design) (U.S. Reg. No. 4440925) for “financial investment services in the field of natural gas futures contracts, cash-settled options on natural gas futures contracts, forward contracts for natural gas, over-the-counter transactions based on the price of natural gas, and indices based on the foregoing” in use since September 30, 2012. USCF relies upon these trademarks through which it markets its services and strives to build and maintain brand recognition in the market and among current and potential investors. So long as USCF continues to use these trademarks to identify its services, without challenge from any third party, and properly maintains and renews the trademark registrations under applicable laws, rules and regulations, it will continue to have indefinite protection for these trademarks under current laws, rules and regulations.

USCF owns trademark registrations for USCF (U.S. Reg. No. 5127374) in use since April 10, 2016, USCF (U.S. Reg. No. 5040755) for “fund investment services,” and USCF UNITED STATES COMMODITY FUNDS LLC & Design (U.S. Reg. No. 4304004) for “fund investment services,” in use since June 24, 2008. USCF UNITED STATES COMMODITY FUNDS LLC THE 3RD GENERATION OF COMMODITY INDEX FUNDS (U.S. Reg. No. 4250812), USCF THE 3RD GENERATION OF COMMODITY INDEX FUNDS (U.S. Reg. No. 4250813), USCF UNITED STATES COMMODITY FUNDS LLC THE 3RD GENERATION OF COMMODITY INDEX FUNDS (U.S. Reg. No. 4258460) and USCF THE 3RD GENERATION OF COMMODITY INDEX FUNDS (U.S. Reg. No. 4258461) in use since May 14, 2012. USCF applied for trademark registration for INVEST IN WHAT’S REAL (Serial No. 87073498) in use since April 2014. USCF relies upon these trademarks and service mark through which it markets its services and strives to build and maintain brand recognition in the market and among current and potential investors. So long as USCF continues to use these trademarks to identify its services, without challenge from any third party, and properly maintains and renews the trademark registrations under applicable laws, rules and regulations; it will continue to have indefinite protection for these trademarks under current laws, rules and regulations. USCF has been granted two patents Nos. 7,739,186 and 8,019,675, for systems and methods for an exchange traded fund (ETF) that tracks the price of one or more commodities.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

*The following risk factors should be read in connection with the other information included in this annual report on Form 10-K, including Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and UNL's financial statements and the related notes.*

UNL's investment objective is for the daily percentage changes in the NAV per share to reflect the daily percentage changes of the price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana, as measured by the daily percentage changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, plus interest earned on UNL's collateral holdings, less UNL's expenses. UNL seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing so that the average daily percentage change in UNL's NAV for any period of 30 successive valuation days will be within plus/minus ten percent (10%) of the average daily percentage change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts over the same period. UNL's investment strategy is designed to provide investors with a cost-effective way to invest indirectly in natural gas and to hedge against movements in the spot price of natural gas. An investment in UNL involves investment risk similar to a direct investment in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, and correlation risk, or the risk that investors purchasing shares to hedge against movements in the price of natural gas will have an efficient hedge only if the price they pay for their shares closely correlates with the price of natural gas. In addition to investment risk and correlation risk, an investment UNL involves tax risks, OTC and other risks.

**Investment Risk**

*The daily changes in percentage terms of UNL's shares per share NAV relates directly to daily changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts and other assets held by UNL and fluctuations in the prices of these assets could materially adversely affect an investment in UNL's shares.*

The net assets of UNL consist primarily of investments in Futures Contracts and, to a lesser extent, in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. The NAV of UNL's shares relates directly to the value of these assets (less liabilities, including accrued but unpaid expenses), which in turn relates to the price of natural gas in the marketplace. Natural gas prices depend on local, regional and global events or conditions that affect supply and demand for natural gas.

***Economic conditions impacting natural gas.*** The demand for natural gas correlates closely with general economic growth rates. The occurrence of recessions or other periods of low or negative economic growth will typically have a direct adverse impact on natural gas demand and therefore may have an adverse impact on natural gas prices.

***Other natural gas demand-related factors.*** Other factors that may affect the demand for natural gas and therefore its price, include technological improvements in energy efficiency; seasonal weather patterns, which affect the demand for natural gas associated with heating; increased competitiveness of alternative energy sources that have so far generally not been competitive with natural gas without the benefit of government subsidies or mandates; and changes in technology or consumer preferences that alter fuel choices, such as toward alternative fueled vehicles.

***Other natural gas supply-related factors.*** Natural gas prices also vary depending on a number of factors affecting supply. For example, increased supply from the development of new natural gas sources and technologies to enhance recovery from existing sources tends to reduce natural gas prices to the extent such supply increases are not offset by commensurate growth in demand. Similarly, increases in industry refining or manufacturing capacity may impact the supply of natural gas. Natural gas supply levels can also be affected by factors that reduce available supplies, such as natural disasters, disruptions in competitors' operations, or unexpected unavailability of distribution channels that may disrupt supplies. Technological change can also alter the relative costs for companies in the natural gas industry to find, produce, and transport natural gas, which in turn, may affect the supply of and demand for natural gas.

***Other factors impacting the natural gas market.*** The supply of and demand for natural gas may also be impacted by changes in interest rates, inflation, and other local or regional market conditions, as well as by the development of alternative energy sources.

***Price Volatility May Possibly Cause the Total Loss of Your Investment.*** Futures contracts have a high degree of price variability and are subject to occasional rapid and substantial changes. Consequently, you could lose all or substantially all of your investment in UNL.

**Correlation Risk**

Investors purchasing shares to hedge against movements in the price of natural gas will have an efficient hedge only if the price they pay for their shares closely correlates with the price of natural gas. Investing in UNL's shares for hedging purposes involves the following risks:

- The market price at which the investor buys or sells shares may be significantly less or more than NAV. Daily percentage changes in NAV may not closely correlate with daily percentage changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.
- Daily percentage changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts may not closely correlate with daily percentage changes in the price of natural gas.

*The market price at which investors buy or sell shares may be significantly less or more than NAV.*

UNL's NAV per share will change throughout the day as fluctuations occur in the market value of UNL's portfolio investments. The public trading price at which an investor buys or sells shares during the day from their broker may be different from the NAV of the shares. Price differences may relate primarily to supply and demand forces at work in the secondary trading market for shares that are closely related to, but not identical to, the same forces influencing the prices of the natural gas and the Benchmark Futures Contracts at any point in time. USCF expects that exploitation of certain arbitrage opportunities by Authorized Participants and their clients and customers will tend to cause the public trading price to track NAV per share closely over time, but there can be no assurance of that.

The NAV of UNL's shares may also be influenced by non-concurrent trading hours between the NYSE Arca and the various futures exchanges on which natural gas is traded. While the shares trade on the NYSE Arca from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the trading hours for the futures exchanges on which natural gas trades may not necessarily coincide during all of this time. For example, while the shares trade on the NYSE Arca until 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, liquidity in the natural gas market will be reduced after the close of the NYMEX at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time. As a result, during periods when the NYSE Arca is open and the futures exchanges on which natural gas is traded are closed, trading spreads and the resulting premium or discount on the shares may widen and, therefore, increase the difference between the price of the shares and the NAV of the shares.

*Daily percentage changes in UNL's NAV may not correlate with daily percentage changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.*

It is possible that the daily percentage changes in UNL's NAV per share may not closely correlate to daily percentage changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. Non-correlation may be attributable to disruptions in the market for natural gas, the imposition of position or accountability limits by regulators or exchanges, or other extraordinary circumstances. As UNL approaches or reaches position limits with respect to the Benchmark Futures Contracts and other Futures Contracts or in view of market conditions, UNL may begin investing in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. In addition, UNL is not able to replicate exactly the changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts because the total return generated by UNL is reduced by expenses and transaction costs, including those incurred in connection with UNL's trading activities, and increased by interest income from UNL's holdings of Treasury securities. Tracking the Benchmark Futures Contracts requires trading of UNL's portfolio with a view to tracking the Benchmark Futures Contracts over time and is dependent upon the skills of USCF and its trading principals, among other factors.

***Daily percentage changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts may not correlate with daily percentage changes in the spot price of natural gas.***

The correlation between changes in prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts and the spot price of natural gas may at times be only approximate. The degree of imperfection of correlation depends upon circumstances such as variations in the speculative natural gas market, supply of and demand for Futures Contracts (including the Benchmark Futures Contracts) and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, and technical influences in natural gas futures trading.

***Natural forces in the natural gas futures market known as “backwardation” and “contango” may increase UNL’s tracking error and/or negatively impact total return.***

The design of UNL’s Benchmark Futures Contracts is such that every month it begins by using the near month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 months until the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, when, over a one day period, it transitions to the next month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 months as its benchmark contracts and keeps those contracts as its benchmark until it becomes the near month contract and close to expiration. In the event of a natural gas futures market where near month contracts trade at a higher price than next month to expire contracts, a situation described as “backwardation” in the futures market, then absent the impact of the overall movement in natural gas prices the value of the benchmark contract would tend to rise as it approaches expiration. Conversely, in the event of a natural gas futures market where near month contracts trade at a lower price than next month contracts, a situation described as “contango” in the futures market, then absent the impact of the overall movement in natural gas prices the value of the Benchmark Futures Contracts would tend to decline as it approaches expiration. When compared to total return of other price indices, such as the spot price of natural gas, the impact of backwardation and contango may cause the total return of UNL’s per share NAV to vary significantly. Moreover, absent the impact of rising or falling natural gas prices, a prolonged period of contango could have a significant negative impact on UNL’s per share NAV and total return and investors could lose part or all of their investment. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in this annual report on Form 10-K for a discussion of the potential effects of contango and backwardation.

***Accountability levels, position limits, and daily price fluctuation limits set by the exchanges have the potential to cause tracking error, which could cause the price of shares to substantially vary from the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.***

Designated contract markets, such as the NYMEX, have established accountability levels and position limits on the maximum net long or net short futures contracts in commodity interests that any person or group of persons under common trading control (other than as a hedge, which an investment by UNL is not) may hold, own or control. In addition to accountability levels and position limits, the NYMEX also set daily price fluctuation limits on futures contracts. The daily price fluctuation limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day’s settlement price. Once the daily price fluctuation limit has been reached in a particular futures contract, no trades may be made at a price beyond that limit.

As discussed above, the CFTC has proposed to adopt limits on speculative positions in 25 physical commodity futures and option contracts as well as swaps that are economically equivalent to such contracts in the agriculture, energy and metals markets. The Position Limit Rules would, among other things: identify which contracts are subject to speculative position limits; set thresholds that restrict the size of speculative positions that a person may hold in the spot month, other individual months, and all months combined; create an exemption for positions that constitute bona fide hedging transactions; impose responsibilities on DCMs and SEFs to establish position limits or, in some cases, position accountability rules; and apply to both futures and swaps across four relevant venues: OTC, DCMs, SEFs as



well as certain non-U.S. located platforms. The CFTC's first attempt at finalizing the Position Limit Rules, in 2011, was successfully challenged by market participants in 2012 and, since then, the CFTC has re-proposed them and solicited comments from market participants multiple times. At this time, it is unclear how the Position Limit Rules may affect UNL, but the effect may be substantial and adverse. By way of example, the Position Limit Rules may negatively impact the ability of UNL to meet its investment objectives through limits that may inhibit USCF's ability to sell additional Creation Baskets of UNL. See *"The Commodity Interest Markets-Commodities Regulation"* in this annual report on Form 10-K for additional information.

Until such time as the Position Limit Rules are adopted, the regulatory architecture in effect prior to the adoption of the Position Limit Rules will govern transactions in commodities and related derivatives. Under that system, the CFTC enforces federal limits on speculation in nine agricultural products (e.g., corn, wheat and soy), while futures exchanges establish and enforce position limits and accountability levels for other agricultural products and certain energy products (e.g., oil and natural gas). As a result, UNL may be limited with respect to the size of its investments in any commodities subject to these limits.

Under existing and recently adopted CFTC regulations, for the purpose of position limits, a market participant is generally required, subject to certain narrow exceptions, to aggregate all positions for which that participant controls the trading decisions with all positions for which that participant has a 10 percent or greater ownership interest in an account or position, as well as the positions of two or more persons acting pursuant to an express or implied agreement or understanding with that participant. The Aggregation Rules will also apply with respect to the Position Limit Rules if and when such Position Limit Rules are adopted.

All of these limits may potentially cause a tracking error between the price of UNL's shares and the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. This may in turn prevent investors from being able to effectively use UNL as a way to hedge against natural gas-related losses or as a way to indirectly invest in natural gas.

UNL has not limited the size of its offering and is committed to utilizing substantially all of its proceeds to purchase Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. If UNL encounters accountability levels, position limits, or price fluctuation limits for Futures Contracts on the NYMEX, it may then, if permitted under applicable regulatory requirements, purchase Futures Contracts on other exchanges that trade listed natural gas futures or enter into swaps or other transactions to meet its investment objective. In addition, if UNL exceeds accountability levels on either the NYMEX and is required by such exchanges to reduce its holdings, such reduction could potentially cause a tracking error between the price of UNL's shares and the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.

### **Tax Risk**

*An investor's tax liability may exceed the amount of distributions, if any, on its shares.*

Cash or property will be distributed at the sole discretion of USCF. USCF has not and does not currently intend to make cash or other distributions with respect to shares. Investors will be required to pay U.S. federal income tax and, in some cases, state, local, or foreign income tax, on their allocable share of UNL's taxable income, without regard to whether they receive distributions or the amount of any distributions. Therefore, the tax liability of an investor with respect to its shares may exceed the amount of cash or value of property (if any) distributed.

*An investor's allocable share of taxable income or loss may differ from its economic income or loss on its shares.*

Due to the application of the assumptions and conventions applied by UNL in making allocations for tax purposes and other factors, an investor's allocable share of UNL's income, gain, deduction or loss may be different than its economic profit or loss from its shares for a taxable year. This difference could be temporary or permanent and, if permanent, could result in it being taxed on amounts in excess of its economic income.

*Items of income, gain, deduction, loss and credit with respect to shares could be reallocated, and for taxable periods beginning after December 31, 2017, UNL could be liable for US. Federal income tax, if the U.S. Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") does not accept the assumptions and conventions applied by UNL in allocating those items, with potential adverse consequences for an investor.*

The U.S. tax rules pertaining to partnerships are complex and their application to large, publicly traded partnerships such as UNL is in many respects uncertain. UNL applies certain assumptions and conventions in an attempt to comply with the intent of the applicable rules and to report taxable income, gains, deductions, losses and credits in a manner that properly reflects shareholders' economic gains and losses. These assumptions and conventions may not fully comply with all aspects of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") and applicable Treasury Regulations, however, and it is possible that the IRS will successfully challenge UNL's allocation methods and require UNL to reallocate items of income, gain, deduction, loss or credit in a manner that adversely affects investors. If this occurs, investors may be required to file an amended tax return and to pay additional taxes plus deficiency interest.

In addition, for periods beginning after December 31, 2017, UNL may be liable for U.S. federal income tax on any "imputed understatement" of tax resulting from an adjustment as a result of an IRS audit. The amount of the imputed understatement generally includes increases in allocations of items of income or gains to any investor and decreases in allocations of items of deduction, loss, or credit to any investor without any offset for any corresponding reductions in allocations of items of income or gain to any investor or increases in allocations of items of deduction, loss, or credit to any investor. If UNL is required to pay any U.S. federal income taxes on any imputed understatement, the resulting tax liability would reduce the net assets of UNL and would likely have an adverse impact on the value of the shares. Under certain circumstances, UNL may be eligible to make an election to cause the investors to take into account the amount of any imputed understatement, including any interest and penalties. The ability of a publicly traded partnership such as UNL to make this election is uncertain. If the election is made, UNL would be required to provide investors who owned beneficial interests in the shares in the year to which the adjusted allocations relate with a statement setting forth their proportionate shares of the adjustment ("Adjusted K-1s"). The investors would be required to take the adjustment into account in the taxable year in which the Adjusted K-1s are issued. The resulting tax liability on an investor of taking the adjustment into account in the year in which the Adjusted K-1 is issued may be less favorable to the investor than if the adjustment were taken into account in the reviewed year.

***UNL could be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, which may substantially reduce the value of the shares.***

UNL has received an opinion of counsel that, under current U.S. federal income tax laws, UNL will be treated as a partnership that is not taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, provided that (i) at least 90 percent of UNL's annual gross income will be derived from (a) income and gains from commodities (not held as inventory) or futures, forwards, options, swaps and other notional principal contracts with respect to commodities, and (b) interest income, (ii) UNL is organized and operated in accordance with its governing agreements and applicable law and (iii) UNL does not elect to be taxed as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. Although USCF anticipates that UNL has satisfied and will continue to satisfy the "qualifying income" requirement for all of its taxable years, that result cannot be assured. UNL has not requested and will not request any ruling from the IRS with respect to its classification as a partnership not taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. If the IRS were to successfully assert that UNL is taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes in any taxable year, rather than passing through its income, gains, losses and deductions proportionately to shareholders, UNL would be subject to tax on its net income for the year at corporate tax rates. In addition, although USCF does not currently intend to make distributions with respect to shares, any distributions would be taxable to shareholders as dividend income. Taxation of UNL as a corporation could materially reduce the after-tax return on an investment in shares and could substantially reduce the value of the shares.

***UNL is organized and operated as a limited partnership in accordance with the provisions of the LP Agreement and applicable state law, and therefore, UNL has a more complex tax treatment than traditional mutual funds.***

UNL is organized and operated as a limited partnership in accordance with the provisions of the LP Agreement and applicable state law. No U.S. federal income tax is paid by UNL on its income. Instead, UNL will furnish shareholders each year with tax information on IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065) and each U.S. shareholder is required to report on its U.S. federal income tax return its allocable share of the income, gain, loss and deduction of UNL.

This must be reported without regard to the amount (if any) of cash or property the shareholder receives as a distribution from UNL during the taxable year. A shareholder, therefore, may be allocated income or gain by UNL but receive no cash distribution with which to pay the tax liability resulting from the allocation, or may receive a distribution that is insufficient to pay such liability.

In addition to federal income taxes, shareholders may be subject to other taxes, such as state and local income taxes, unincorporated business taxes, business franchise taxes and estate, inheritance or intangible taxes that may be imposed by the various jurisdictions in which UNL does business or owns property or where the shareholders reside. Although an analysis of those various taxes is not presented here, each prospective shareholder should consider their potential impact on its investment in UNL. It is each shareholder's responsibility to file the appropriate U.S. federal, state, local

and foreign tax returns.

***If UNL is required to withhold tax with respect to any Non-U.S. shareholders, the cost of such withholding may be borne by all shareholders.***

Under certain circumstances, UNL may be required to pay withholding tax with respect to allocations to Non-U.S. shareholders. Although the LP Agreement provides that any such withholding will be treated as being distributed to the Non-U.S. shareholder, UNL may not be able to cause the economic cost of such withholding to be borne by the Non-U.S. shareholder on whose behalf such amounts were withheld since it does not generally expect to make any distributions. Under such circumstances, the economic cost of the withholding may be borne by all shareholders, not just the shareholders on whose behalf such amounts were withheld. This could have a material impact on the value of the shares.

***The impact of U.S. tax reform on UNL is uncertain.***

On December 22, 2017, H.R. 1, the bill formerly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the “Tax Act”), was signed into law. The Tax Act substantially alters the U.S. federal tax system in a variety of ways, including significant changes to the taxation of business entities, the deductibility of interest expense, and the tax treatment of capital investment. We cannot predict with certainty how any changes in the tax laws might affect the U.S. economy or the demand for and the price of commodities. As a result, it is possible that the Tax Act, as well as any U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions interpreting the Tax Act and any future legislation related to tax reform, could have unexpected or negative impacts on UNL and some or all of its shareholders. Shareholders are urged to consult with their tax advisor regarding tax legislative, regulatory, or administrative developments and proposals and their potential effect on an investment in UNL.

### **OTC Contract Risk**

*UNL will be subject to credit risk with respect to counterparties to OTC contracts entered into by UNL or held by special purpose or structured vehicles.*

UNL faces the risk of non-performance by the counterparties to the OTC contracts. Unlike in futures contracts, the counterparty to these contracts is generally a single bank or other financial institution, rather than a clearing organization backed by a group of financial institutions. As a result, there will be greater counterparty credit risk in these transactions. A counterparty may not be able to meet its obligations to UNL, in which case UNL could suffer significant losses on these contracts. The two-way margining requirements imposed by U.S. regulators, discussed in “Item 1. Business – Commodities Regulation,” are intended to mitigate this risk.

Nevertheless, if a counterparty becomes bankrupt or otherwise fails to perform its obligations due to financial difficulties, UNL may experience significant delays in obtaining any recovery in a bankruptcy or other reorganization proceeding. UNL may obtain only limited recovery or may obtain no recovery in such circumstances.

*Valuing OTC derivatives may be less certain than actively traded financial instruments.*

In general, valuing OTC derivatives is less certain than valuing actively traded financial instruments such as exchange traded futures contracts and securities or cleared swaps because the price and terms on which such OTC derivatives are entered into or can be terminated are individually negotiated, and those prices and terms may not reflect the best price or terms available from other sources. In addition, while market makers and dealers generally quote indicative prices or terms for entering into or terminating OTC contracts, they typically are not contractually obligated to do so, particularly if they are not a party to the transaction. As a result, it may be difficult to obtain an independent value for an outstanding OTC derivatives transaction.

### **Other Risks**

*Certain of UNL’s investments could be illiquid, which could cause large losses to investors at any time or from time to time.*

Futures positions cannot always be liquidated at the desired price. It is difficult to execute a trade at a specific price when there is a relatively small volume of buy and sell orders in a market. A market disruption, such as a foreign government taking political actions that disrupt the market for its currency, its natural gas production or exports, or another major export, can also make it difficult to liquidate a position. Because both Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments may be illiquid, UNL's Natural Gas Interests may be more difficult to liquidate at favorable prices in periods of illiquid markets and losses may be incurred during the period in which positions are being liquidated. The large size of the positions that UNL may acquire increases the risk of illiquidity both by making its positions more difficult to liquidate and by potentially increasing losses while trying to do so.

OTC contracts that are not subject to clearing may be even less marketable than futures contracts because they are not traded on an exchange, do not have uniform terms and conditions, and are entered into based upon the creditworthiness of the parties and the availability of credit support, such as collateral, and in general, they are not transferable without the consent of the counterparty. These conditions make such contracts less liquid than standardized futures contracts traded on a commodities exchange and could adversely impact UNL's ability to realize the full value of such contracts. In addition, even if collateral is used to reduce counterparty credit risk, sudden changes in the value of OTC transactions may leave a party open to financial risk due to a counterparty default since the collateral held may not cover a party's exposure on the transaction in such situations.

***UNL is not actively managed and tracks the Benchmark Futures Contracts during periods in which the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts is flat or declining as well as when the price is rising.***

UNL is not actively managed by conventional methods. Accordingly, if UNL's investments in Natural Gas Interests are declining in value, UNL will not close out such positions except in connection with paying the proceeds to an Authorized Participant upon the redemption of a basket or closing out futures positions in connection with the monthly change in the Benchmark Futures Contracts. USCF will seek to cause the NAV of UNL's shares to track the Benchmark Futures Contracts during periods in which its price is flat or declining as well as when the price is rising.

***The NYSE Arca may halt trading in UNL's shares, which would adversely impact an investor's ability to sell shares.***

UNL's shares are listed for trading on the NYSE Arca under the market symbol "UNL." Trading in shares may be halted due to market conditions or, in light of NYSE Arca rules and procedures, for reasons that, in the view of the NYSE Arca, make trading in shares inadvisable. In addition, trading is subject to trading halts caused by extraordinary market volatility pursuant to "circuit breaker" rules that require trading to be halted for a specified period based on a specified market decline. Additionally, there can be no assurance that the requirements necessary to maintain the listing of UNL's shares will continue to be met or will remain unchanged.

***The liquidity of the shares may also be affected by the withdrawal from participation of Authorized Participants, which could adversely affect the market price of the shares.***

In the event that one or more Authorized Participants which have substantial interests in the shares withdraw from participation, the liquidity of the shares will likely decrease, which could adversely affect the market price of the shares and result in investors incurring a loss on their investment.

***Shareholders that are not Authorized Participants may only purchase or sell their shares in secondary trading markets, and the conditions associated with trading in secondary markets may adversely affect investors' investment in the shares.***

Only Authorized Participants may create or redeem Redemption Baskets. All other investors that desire to purchase or sell shares must do so through the NYSE Arca or in other markets, if any, in which the shares may be traded. Shares may trade at a premium or discount to NAV per share.



***The lack of an active trading market for UNL's shares may result in losses on an investor's investment in UNL at the time the investor sells the shares.***

Although UNL's shares are listed and traded on the NYSE Arca, there can be no guarantee that an active trading market for the shares will be maintained. If an investor needs to sell shares at a time when no active trading market for them exists, the price the investor receives upon sale of the shares, assuming they were able to be sold, likely would be lower than if an active market existed.

***Limited partners may have limited liability in certain circumstances, including potentially having liability for the return of wrongful distributions.***

Under Delaware law, a limited partner might be held liable for UNL's obligations as if it were a general partner if the limited partner participates in the control of the partnership's business and the persons who transact business with the partnership think the limited partner is the general partner.

A limited partner will not be liable for assessments in addition to its initial capital investment in any of UNL's shares. However, a limited partner may be required to repay to UNL any amounts wrongfully returned or distributed to it under some circumstances. Under Delaware law, UNL may not make a distribution to limited partners if the distribution causes UNL's liabilities (other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests and nonrecourse liabilities) to exceed the fair value of UNL's assets. Delaware law provides that a limited partner who receives such a distribution and knew at the time of the distribution that the distribution violated the law will be liable to the limited partnership for the amount of the distribution for three years from the date of the distribution.

***The LLC Agreement provides limited authority to the Non-Management Directors, and any Director of USCF may be removed by USCF's parent company, which is wholly owned by Concierge, a controlled public company where the majority of shares are owned by Nicholas Gerber along with certain other family members and certain other shareholders.***

USCF's Board of Directors currently consists of four Management Directors, each of whom are executive officers or employees of USCF, and three Non-Management Directors, each of whom are considered independent for purposes of applicable NYSE Arca and SEC rules. Under USCF's LLC Agreement, the Non-Management Directors have only such authority as the Management Directors expressly confer upon them, which means that the Non-Management Directors may have less authority to control the actions of the Management Directors than is typically the case with the independent members of a company's Board of Directors. In addition, any Director may be removed by written consent of Wainwright Holdings, Inc. ("Wainwright"), which is the sole member of USCF. The sole shareholder of Wainwright is Concierge Technologies Inc., a company publicly traded under the ticker symbol "CNCG" ("Concierge"). Mr. Nicholas Gerber along with certain family members and certain other shareholders, owns the majority of the shares in Concierge, which is the sole shareholder of Wainwright, the sole member of USCF. Accordingly, although USCF is governed by the USCF Board of Directors, which consists of both Management Directors and Non-Management Directors, pursuant to the LLC Agreement, it is possible for Mr. Gerber to exercise his indirect control of Wainwright to effect the removal of any Director (including the Non-Management Directors which comprise the Audit Committee) and to replace that Director with another Director. Having control in one person could have a negative impact on USCF and UNL, including their regulatory obligations.

***There is a risk that UNL will not earn trading gains sufficient to compensate for the fees and expenses that it must pay and as such UNL may not earn any profit.***

UNL pays brokerage charges of approximately 0.04% of average total net assets based on brokerage fees of \$3.50 per buy or sell, management fees of 0.75% of NAV on its average net assets and OTC spreads and extraordinary expenses (e.g., subsequent offering expenses, other expenses not in the ordinary course of business, including the indemnification of any person against liabilities and obligations to the extent permitted by law and required under the LP Agreement and under agreements entered into by USCF on UNL's behalf and the bringing and defending of actions at law or in equity and otherwise engaging in the conduct of litigation and the incurring of legal expenses and the settlement of claims and litigation) that cannot be quantified.

These fees and expenses must be paid in all cases regardless of whether UNL's activities are profitable. Accordingly, UNL must earn trading gains sufficient to compensate for these fees and expenses before it can earn any profit.

***Regulation of the commodity interests and energy markets is extensive and constantly changing; future regulatory developments are impossible to predict but may significantly and adversely affect UNL.***

The futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations, and margin requirements. In addition, the CFTC and futures exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, the retroactive implementation of speculative position limits or higher margin requirements, the establishment of daily price limits and the suspension of trading. Regulation of commodity interest transactions in the United States is a rapidly changing area of law and is subject to ongoing modification by governmental and judicial action. Considerable regulatory attention has been focused on non-traditional investment pools that are publicly distributed in the United States. In addition, various national governments outside of the United States have expressed concern regarding the disruptive effects of speculative trading in the energy markets and the need to regulate the derivatives markets in general. The effect of any future regulatory change on UNL is impossible to predict, but it could be substantial and adverse. For a more detailed discussion of the regulations to be imposed by the CFTC and the SEC and the potential impacts thereof on UNL, please see "*Item 1. Business – Commodities Regulation*" in this annual report on Form 10-K.

***An investment in UNL may provide little or no diversification benefits. Thus, in a declining market, UNL may have no gains to offset losses from other investments, and an investor may suffer losses on an investment in UNL while incurring losses with respect to other asset classes.***

Historically, Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments have generally been non-correlated to the performance of other asset classes such as stocks and bonds. Non-correlation means that there is a low statistically valid relationship between the performance of futures and other commodity interest transactions, on the one hand, and stocks or bonds, on the other hand.

However, there can be no assurance that such non-correlation will continue during future periods. If, contrary to historic patterns, UNL's performance were to move in the same general direction as the financial markets, investors will obtain little or no diversification benefits from an investment in UNL's shares. In such a case, UNL may have no gains to offset losses from other investments, and investors may suffer losses on their investment in UNL at the same time they incur losses with respect to other investments.

Variables such as drought, floods, weather, embargoes, tariffs and other political events may have a larger impact on natural gas prices and natural gas-linked instruments, including Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, than on traditional securities. These additional variables may create additional investment risks that subject UNL's investments to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities.

Non-correlation should not be confused with negative correlation, where the performance of two asset classes would be opposite of each other. There is no historical evidence that the spot price of natural gas and prices of other financial assets, such as stocks and bonds, are negatively correlated. In the absence of negative correlation, UNL cannot be expected to be automatically profitable during unfavorable periods for the stock market, or vice versa.

***UNL is not a registered investment company so shareholders do not have the protections of the 1940 Act.***

UNL is not an investment company subject to the 1940 Act. Accordingly, investors do not have the protections afforded by that statute which, for example, requires investment companies to have a majority of disinterested directors and regulates the relationship between the investment company and its investment manager.

***Trading in international markets could expose UNL to credit and regulatory risk.***

UNL invests primarily in Futures Contracts, a significant portion of which are traded on United States exchanges, including the NYMEX. However, a portion of UNL's trades may take place on markets and exchanges outside the United States. Some non-U.S. markets present risks because they are not subject to the same degree of regulation as their U.S. counterparts. Trading on such non-U.S. markets or exchanges presents risks because they are not subject to the same degree of regulation as their U.S. counterparts, including potentially different or diminished investor protections. In trading contracts denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars, UNL is subject to the risk of adverse exchange-rate movements between the dollar and the functional currencies of such contracts. Additionally, trading on non-U.S. exchanges is subject to the risks presented by exchange controls, expropriation, increased tax burdens and exposure to local economic declines and political instability. An adverse development with respect to any of these variables could reduce the profit or increase the loss earned on trades in the affected international markets.

***UNL and USCF may have conflicts of interest, which may permit them to favor their own interests to the detriment of shareholders.***

UNL is subject to actual and potential inherent conflicts involving USCF, various commodity futures brokers and Authorized Participants. USCF's officers, directors and employees do not devote their time exclusively to UNL and also are directors, officers or employees of other entities that may compete with UNL for their services. They could have a conflict between their responsibilities to UNL and to those other entities. As a result of these and other relationships, parties involved with UNL have a financial incentive to act in a manner other than in the best interests of UNL and the shareholders. USCF has not established any formal procedure to resolve conflicts of interest. Consequently, investors are dependent on the good faith of the respective parties subject to such conflicts of interest to resolve them equitably. Although USCF attempts to monitor these conflicts, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for USCF to ensure that these conflicts do not, in fact, result in adverse consequences to the shareholders.

UNL may also be subject to certain conflicts with respect to the FCM, including, but not limited to, conflicts that result from receiving greater amounts of compensation from other clients, or purchasing opposite or competing positions on behalf of third party accounts traded through the FCM. In addition, USCF's principals, officers, directors or employees may trade futures and related contracts for their own account. A conflict of interest may exist if their trades are in the same markets and at the same time as UNL trades using the clearing broker to be used by UNL. A potential conflict also may occur if USCF's principals, officers, directors or employees trade their accounts more aggressively or take positions in their accounts which are opposite, or ahead of, the positions taken by UNL.

***UNL could terminate at any time and cause the liquidation and potential loss of an investor's investment and could upset the overall maturity and timing of an investor's investment portfolio.***

UNL may terminate at any time, regardless of whether UNL has incurred losses, subject to the terms of the LP Agreement. In particular, unforeseen circumstances, including the death, adjudication of incompetence, bankruptcy, dissolution, or removal of USCF as the general partner of UNL could cause UNL to terminate unless a majority interest of the limited partners within 90 days of the event elects to continue the partnership and appoints a successor general partner, or the affirmative vote of a majority in interest of the limited partners subject to certain conditions. However, no level of losses will require USCF to terminate UNL. UNL's termination would cause the liquidation and potential loss of an investor's investment. Termination could also negatively affect the overall maturity and timing of an investor's investment portfolio.

***UNL does not expect to make cash distributions.***

UNL has not previously made any cash distributions and intends to reinvest any realized gains in additional Natural Gas Interests rather than distributing cash to limited partners. Therefore, unlike mutual funds, commodity pools or other investment pools that actively manage their investments in an attempt to realize income and gains from their investing activities and distribute such income and gains to their investors, UNL generally does not expect to distribute cash to limited partners. An investor should not invest in UNL if the investor will need cash distributions from UNL to pay taxes on its share of income and gains of UNL, if any, or for any other reason. Nonetheless, although UNL does not intend to make cash distributions, the income earned from its investments held directly or posted as margin may reach levels that merit distribution, e.g., at levels where such income is not necessary to support its underlying investments in Natural Gas Interests and investors adversely react to being taxed on such income without receiving distributions that could be used to pay such tax. If this income becomes significant then cash distributions may be made.

*An unanticipated number of redemption requests during a short period of time could have an adverse effect on UNL's NAV.*

If a substantial number of requests for redemption of Redemption Baskets are received by UNL during a relatively short period of time, UNL may not be able to satisfy the requests from UNL's assets not committed to trading. As a consequence, it could be necessary to liquidate positions in UNL's trading positions before the time that the trading strategies would otherwise dictate liquidation.

***Money Market Reform***

The SEC adopted amendments to Rule 2a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which became effective in 2016, to reform money market funds (“MMFs”). While the new rule applies only to MMFs, it may indirectly affect institutional investors such as UNL. A portion of UNL’s assets that are not used for margin or collateral in the Futures Contracts currently are invested in government MMFs. UNL does not hold any non-government MMFs and, particularly in light of recent changes to the rule governing the operation of MMFs, does not anticipate investing in any non-government MMFs. However, if UNL invests in other types of MMFs besides government MMFs in the future, UNL could be negatively impacted by investing in an MMF that does not maintain a stable \$1.00 NAV or that has the potential to impose redemption fees and gates (temporary suspension of redemptions).

***The failure or bankruptcy of a clearing broker could result in a substantial loss of UNL’s assets and could impair UNL in its ability to execute trades.***

In the event of the bankruptcy of a clearing broker or an Exchange’s clearing house, UNL could be exposed to a risk of loss with respect to its assets that are posted as margin. If such a bankruptcy were to occur, UNL would be afforded the protections granted to customers of an FCM, and participants to transactions cleared through a clearing house, under the United States Bankruptcy Code and applicable CFTC regulations. Such provisions generally provide for a pro rata distribution to customers of customer property held by the bankrupt FCM or an Exchange’s clearing house if the customer property held by the FCM or the Exchange’s clearing house is insufficient to satisfy all customer claims. In any case, there can be no assurance that these protections will be effective in allowing UNL to recover all, or even any, of the amounts it has deposited as margin.

Bankruptcy of a clearing FCM can be caused by, among other things, the default of one of the FCM’s customers. In this event, the Exchange’s clearing house is permitted to use the entire amount of margin posted by UNL (as well as margin posted by other customers of the FCM) to cover the amounts owed by the bankrupt FCM. Consequently, UNL could be unable to recover amounts due to it on its futures positions, including assets posted as margin, and could sustain substantial losses.

CFTC regulations impose several requirements on FCMs that are designed to protect customers, including mandating certain customer protections and the implementation of risk management programs, internal monitoring and controls, capital and liquidity standards, customer disclosures, and auditing and examination programs. There can be no assurance these regulations will prevent losses to, or not materially adversely affect, UNL or its investors.



Notwithstanding that UNL could sustain losses upon the failure or bankruptcy of its FCM, the majority of UNL's assets are held in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents with the Custodian and would not be impacted by the bankruptcy of an FCM.

***The failure or bankruptcy of UNL's Custodian could result in a substantial loss of UNL's assets.***

The majority of UNL's assets are held in Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents with the Custodian. The insolvency of the Custodian could result in a complete loss of UNL's assets held by that Custodian, which, at any given time, would likely comprise a substantial portion of UNL's total assets.

***Third parties may infringe upon or otherwise violate intellectual property rights or assert that USCF has infringed or otherwise violated their intellectual property rights, which may result in significant costs and diverted attention.***

It is possible that third parties might utilize UNL's intellectual property or technology, including the use of its business methods, trademarks and trading program software, without permission. USCF has a patent for UNL's business method and has registered its trademarks. UNL does not currently have any proprietary software. However, if it obtains proprietary software in the future, any unauthorized use of UNL's proprietary software and other technology could also adversely affect its competitive advantage. UNL may not have adequate resources to implement procedures for monitoring unauthorized uses of its patents, trademarks, proprietary software and other technology. Also, third parties may independently develop business methods, trademarks or proprietary software and other technology similar to that of USCF or claim that USCF has violated their intellectual property rights, including their copyrights, trademark rights, trade names, trade secrets and patent rights. As a result, USCF may have to litigate in the future to protect its trade secrets, determine the validity and scope of other parties' proprietary rights, defend itself against claims that it has infringed or otherwise violated other parties' rights, or defend itself against claims that its rights are invalid. Any litigation of this type, even if USCF is successful and regardless of the merits, may result in significant costs, divert its resources from UNL, or require it to change its proprietary software and other technology or enter into royalty or licensing agreements.

*Due to the increased use of technologies, intentional and unintentional cyber-attacks pose operational and information security risks.*

With the increased use of technologies such as the Internet and the dependence on computer systems to perform necessary business functions, UNL is susceptible to operational and information security risks. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber-attacks include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cyber-attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on websites. Cyber security failures or breaches of UNL's clearing broker or third party service provider (including, but not limited to, index providers, the administrator and transfer agent, the custodian), have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of UNL shareholders to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs.

In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any cyber incidents in the future. UNL and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result. While UNL has established business continuity plans, there are inherent limitations in such plans.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

Not applicable.

Item 2. Properties.

Not applicable.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

Although UNL may, from time to time, be involved in litigation arising out of its operations in the normal course of business or otherwise, UNL is currently not a party to any pending material legal proceedings.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

Part II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

**Price Range of Shares**

UNL's shares have traded on the NYSE Arca under the symbol "UNL" since November 18, 2009. The following table sets forth the range of reported high and low sales prices of the shares as reported on the NYSE Arca, for the periods indicated below.

	High	Low
Fiscal year 2017		
First quarter	\$11.33	\$9.52
Second quarter	\$11.11	\$9.72
Third quarter	\$10.27	\$9.56
Fourth quarter	\$10.15	\$8.55
Fiscal year 2016		
First quarter	\$10.13	\$7.97
Second quarter	\$10.64	\$8.65
Third quarter	\$10.82	\$9.79
Fourth quarter	\$11.85	\$9.35

As of November 30, 2017, UNL had approximately 2,495 holders of shares.

## Dividends

UNL has not made and does not currently intend to make cash distributions to its shareholders.

## Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

UNL does not purchase shares directly from its shareholders. In connection with its redemption of baskets held by Authorized Participants, UNL redeemed 2 basket (comprising 100,000 shares) and 12 baskets (comprising 600,000 shares) for the three and twelve months ended December 31, 2017, respectively. Monthly redemptions for last three months are detailed below.

Period	Total Number of Shares Redeemed	Average Price Per Share
10/1/17 to 10/31/17	100,000	\$ 9.90
11/1/17 to 11/30/17	—	NA
12/1/17 to 12/31/17	—	NA
Total	100,000	

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

### *Financial Highlights (for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013)*

*(Dollar amounts in 000's except for per share information)*

	Year ended December 31, 2017	Year ended December 31, 2016	Year ended December 31, 2015	Year ended December 31, 2014	Year ended December 31, 2013
Total assets	\$ 8,414	\$ 18,661	\$ 13,211	\$ 16,520	\$ 27,656
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on futures	\$ (3,137	) \$ 2,943	\$ (4,425	) \$ (3,808	) \$ 4,384

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transactions, inclusive of  
commissions

Net income (loss)	\$ (3,146	) \$ 2,869	\$ (4,548	) \$ (3,972	) \$ 4,090
Weighted average limited partnership shares	1,027,534	1,387,568	1,305,753	1,031,781	1,866,712
Net income (loss) per share	\$ (2.49	) \$ 2.03	\$ (3.97	) \$ (4.63	) \$ 1.09
Net income (loss) per weighted average share	\$ (3.06	) \$ 2.07	\$ (3.48	) \$ (3.85	) \$ 2.19
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 7,218	\$ 15,061	\$ 11,220	\$ 15,113	\$ 25,515

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and the notes thereto of UNL included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K.

*Forward-Looking Information*

This annual report on Form 10-K, including this "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," contains forward-looking statements regarding the plans and objectives of management for future operations. This information may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause UNL's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, which involve assumptions and describe UNL's future plans, strategies and expectations, are generally identifiable by use of the words "may," "will," "should," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "intend" or "project," the negative of these words or variations on these words or comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that may be incorrect, and UNL cannot assure investors that the projections included in these forward-looking statements will come to pass. UNL's actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors.

UNL has based the forward-looking statements included in this annual report on Form 10-K on information available to it on the date of this annual report on Form 10-K, and UNL assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although UNL undertakes no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, investors are advised to consult any additional disclosures that UNL may make directly to them or through reports that UNL in the future files with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

**Introduction**

UNL, a Delaware limited partnership, is a commodity pool that issues shares that may be purchased and sold on the NYSE Arca. The investment objective of UNL is for the daily changes in percentage terms of its shares' per share NAV to reflect the daily changes, in percentage terms, of the price of natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub, Louisiana, as measured by the daily changes in the average of the prices of 12 futures contracts on natural gas traded on the NYMEX, consisting of the near month contract to expire and the contracts for the following 11 months, for a total of 12 consecutive months' contracts, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month contract to expire and the contracts for

the following 11 consecutive months (the “Benchmark Futures Contracts”), plus interest earned on UNL’s collateral holdings less UNL’s expenses. “Near month contract” means the next contract traded on the NYMEX due to expire. “Next month contract” means the first contract traded on the NYMEX due to expire after the near month contract. When calculating the daily movement of the average price of the 12 contracts, each contract month is equally weighted. UNL’s investment objective is not for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of natural gas or any particular futures contract based on natural gas nor is UNL’s investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period greater than one day. USCF believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments.

UNL seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing so that the average daily percentage change in UNL’s NAV for any period of 30 successive valuation days will be within plus/minus ten percent (10%) of the average daily percentage change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts over the same period.

The regulation of commodity interest trading in the United States and other countries is an evolving area of the law. The various statements made in this summary are subject to modification by legislative action and changes in the rules and regulations of the SEC, FINRA, CFTC, the NFA, the futures exchanges, clearing organizations and other regulatory bodies. Pending final resolution of all applicable regulatory requirements, some examples of how new rules and regulations could impact UNL are discussed in “*Item 1. Business*” and “*Item 1A. Risk Factors*” in this annual report on Form 10-K.

## Price Movements

Natural gas futures prices were volatile during the year ended December 31, 2017 and exhibited moderate daily swings along with an uneven upward trend during the year. During the year the average high price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts did not exceed the starting year price of \$3.621 per million British thermal shares (“MMBtu”). Excluding the year starting price, the average high price for the year was on January 26, 2017 when the average price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts was \$3.519 per MMBtu. The average low price of the year was on December 21, 2017 when the average price dropped to \$2.641 per MMBtu. The year ended with the average price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts at \$2.857 per MMBtu, a decrease of approximately (21.10)% over the year. UNL’s per share NAV began the year at \$11.75 and ended the year at \$9.26 on December 31, 2017, a decrease of approximately (21.19)% over the year. Excluding the year starting per share NAV, UNL’s per share NAV reached its high for the year on January 17, 2017 at \$11.35 and reached its low for the year on December 21, 2017 at \$8.56. The average Benchmark Futures Contracts prices listed above began with the February 2016 to January 2017 contracts and ended with the February 2018 to January 2019 contracts. The decrease of approximately (21.10)% on the average price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts listed above is a hypothetical return only and could not actually be achieved by an investor holding natural gas Futures Contracts. An investment in natural gas Futures Contracts would need to be rolled forward during the time period described in order to simulate such a result. Furthermore, the change in the nominal price of these differing natural gas Futures Contracts, measured from the start of the year to the end of the year, does not represent the actual benchmark results that UNL seeks to track, which are more fully described below in the section titled “*Tracking UNL's Benchmark.*”

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the natural gas futures market was primarily in a state of contango, meaning that the price of the near month natural gas Futures Contract was typically lower than the price of the next month natural gas Futures Contract or contracts further away from expiration. On days when the market is in backwardation, the price of the near month natural gas Futures Contract is typically higher than the price of the next month natural gas Futures Contract, or contracts further away from expiration. For a discussion of the impact of backwardation and contango on total returns, see “*Term Structure of Natural Gas Futures Prices and the Impact on Total Returns*” below.

## Valuation of Futures Contracts and the Computation of the Per Share NAV

The per share NAV of UNL’s shares is calculated once each NYSE Arca trading day. The per share NAV for a particular trading day is released after 4:00 p.m. New York time. Trading during the core trading session on the NYSE Arca typically closes at 4:00 p.m. New York time. The Administrator uses the NYMEX closing price (determined at the earlier of the close of the NYMEX or 2:30 p.m. New York time) for the contracts held on the NYMEX, but calculates or determines the value of all other UNL investments, including cleared swaps, or other futures contracts, as of the earlier of the close of the NYSE Arca or 4:00 p.m. New York time.



## Results of Operations and the Natural Gas Market

*Results of Operations.* On November 18, 2009, UNL listed its shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol “UNL.” On that day, UNL established its initial offering price at \$50.00 per share and issued 200,000 shares to the initial Authorized Participant, Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corp., in exchange for \$10,000,000 in cash.

Since its initial offering of 30,000,000 shares, UNL has not registered any subsequent offerings of its shares. As of December 31, 2017, UNL had issued 5,550,000 shares, 900,000 of which were outstanding. As of December 31, 2017, there were 24,450,000 shares registered but not yet issued.

More shares may have been issued by UNL than are outstanding due to the redemption of shares. Unlike funds that are registered under the 1940 Act, shares that have been redeemed by UNL cannot be resold by UNL. As a result, UNL contemplates that additional offerings of its shares will be registered with the SEC in the future in anticipation of additional issuances and redemptions.

As of December 31, 2017, UNL had the following Authorized Participants: Citadel Securities LLC, Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., Credit Suisse Securities USA LLC, JP Morgan Securities, Inc., Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corporation, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Nomura Securities International Inc., RBC Capital Markets LLC, SG Americas Securities LLC and Virtu Financial BD LLC.

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2016; and for the Year Ended December 31, 2016, Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2015

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2017	For the Year Ended December 31, 2016	For the Year Ended December 31, 2015		
Per share net asset value, end of period	\$ 9.26	\$ 11.75	\$ 9.72		
Average daily total net assets	\$ 10,507,375	\$ 13,640,771	\$ 15,846,367		
Dividend and interest income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents	\$ 80,843	\$ 43,730	\$ 6,435		
Annualized yield based on average daily total net assets	0.77	% 0.32	% 0.04		%
Management fee	\$ 78,805	\$ 102,306	\$ 118,848		
Total fees and other expenses excluding management fees	\$ 77,473	\$ 122,552	\$ 112,972		
Total amount of the expense waiver	\$ 61,713	\$ 102,092	\$ 89,122		
Expenses before allowance for the expense waiver	\$ 156,278	\$ 224,858	\$ 231,820		
Expenses after allowance for the expense waiver	\$ 94,565	\$ 122,766	\$ 142,698		
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 2,209	\$ 3,451	\$ 6,117		
Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.02	% 0.03	% 0.04		%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 1,605	\$ 3,305	\$ 4,698		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	72.66	% 95.77	% 76.80		%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 604	\$ 146	\$ 1,419		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	27.34	% 4.23	% 23.20		%

*Portfolio Expenses.* UNL's expenses consist of investment management fees, brokerage fees and commissions, certain offering costs, licensing fees, registration fees, the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and expenses relating to tax accounting and reporting requirements. The management fee that UNL pays to USCF is calculated as a percentage of the total net assets of UNL. The fee is accrued daily and paid monthly.

The decrease in the per share NAV for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016, was due primarily to lower prices for natural gas and the related decrease in the value of the natural gas futures contracts in which UNL held and traded; and the increase in the per share NAV for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared to the year ended December 31, 2015, was due primarily to higher prices for natural gas and the related increase in the value of the natural gas futures contracts in which UNL held and traded.

Average interest rates earned on short-term investments held by UNL, including cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries, were higher during the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016; and were higher during the year ended December 31, 2016, compared to the year ended December 31, 2015. As a result, the amount of income earned by UNL as a percentage of average daily total net assets was higher during the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016; and was higher during the year ended December 31, 2016 compared to the year ended December 31, 2015. To the degree that the aggregate yield is higher, the net expense ratio, inclusive of income, will be lower.

The decrease in total fees and other expenses excluding management fees for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016 was due to UNL's smaller size as measured by total net assets and lower professional fees; and the increase in total fees and other expenses excluding management fees for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared to the year ended December 31, 2015, was due primarily to higher professional fees.

The decrease in total commissions accrued to brokers for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016, was due primarily to a lower number of futures contracts being held and traded; and the decrease in total commissions accrued to brokers for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared to the year ended December 31, 2015, was due primarily to lower number of futures contracts being held and traded.

For the Three Months Ended December 31, 2017 Compared to the Three Months Ended December 31, 2016; and for the Three Months Ended December 31, 2016 Compared to the Three Months Ended December 31, 2015

	For the three months ended December 31, 2017	For the three months ended December 31, 2016	For the three months ended December 31, 2015		
Per share net asset value, end of period	\$ 9.26	\$ 11.75	\$ 9.72		
Average daily total net assets	\$ 8,516,446	\$ 15,085,893	\$ 12,853,676		
Dividend and interest income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents	\$ 23,373	\$ 13,059	\$ 2,207		
Annualized yield based on average daily total net assets	1.09	% 0.34	% 0.07		%
Management fee	\$ 16,099	\$ 28,441	\$ 24,299		
Total fees and other expenses excluding management fees	\$ 20,383	\$ 31,062	\$ 29,142		
Total amount of the expense waiver	\$ 17,165	\$ 25,375	\$ 24,274		
Expenses before allowance for the expense waiver	\$ 36,482	\$ 59,503	\$ 53,441		
Expenses after allowance for the expense waiver	\$ 19,317	\$ 34,128	\$ 29,167		
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 605	\$ 850	\$ 1,295		
Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.03	% 0.02	% 0.04		%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 475	\$ 765	\$ 1,105		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	78.51	% 90.00	% 85.33		%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 130	\$ 85	\$ 190		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	21.49	% 10.00	% 14.67		%

The decrease in the per share NAV for the three months ended December 31, 2017, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2016, was due primarily to lower prices for natural gas and the related decrease in the value of the natural gas futures contracts in which UNL held and traded; and the increase in the per share NAV for the three months ended December 31, 2016, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2015, was due primarily to higher prices for natural gas and the related increase in the value of the natural gas futures contracts in which UNL held and traded.

Average interest rates earned on short-term investments held by UNL, including cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries, were higher during the three months ended December 31, 2017, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2016; and were higher during the three months ended December 31, 2016, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2015. As a result, the amount of income earned by UNL as a percentage of average daily total net assets was higher during the three months ended December 31, 2017, compared to the three months ended

December 31, 2016; and was higher during the three months ended December 31, 2016 compared to the three months ended December 31, 2015. To the degree that the aggregate yield is higher, the net expense ratio, inclusive of income, will be lower.

The decrease in total fees and other expenses excluding management fees for the three months ended December 31, 2017, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2016 was due to UNL's smaller size as measured by total net assets; and the increase in total fees and other expenses excluding management fees for the three months ended December 31, 2016, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2015, was due primarily to UNL's larger size as measured by total net assets.

The decrease in total commissions accrued to brokers for the three months ended December 31, 2017, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2016, was due primarily to a lower number of futures contracts being held and traded; and the decrease in total commissions accrued to brokers for the three months ended December 31, 2016, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2015, was due primarily to lower number of futures contracts being held and traded.

## Tracking UNL's Benchmark

USCF seeks to manage UNL's portfolio such that changes in its average daily per share NAV, on a percentage basis, closely track the daily changes in the average price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, also on a percentage basis. Specifically, USCF seeks to manage the portfolio such that over any rolling period of 30-valuation days, the average daily change in UNL's per share NAV is within a range of 90% to 110% (0.9 to 1.1) of the average daily change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. As an example, if the average daily movement of the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts for a particular 30-valuation day time period was 0.50% per day, USCF would attempt to manage the portfolio such that the average daily movement of the per share NAV during that same time period fell between 0.45% and 0.55% (i.e., between 0.9 and 1.1 of the benchmark's results). UNL's portfolio management goals do not include trying to make the nominal price of UNL's per share NAV equal to the average of the nominal prices of the current Benchmark Futures Contracts or the spot price for natural gas. USCF believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments.

For the 30-valuation days ended December 31, 2017, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contracts was (0.218)%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of UNL over the same time period was (0.217)%. The average daily difference was 0.001% (or 0.1 basis points, where 1 basis point equals 1/100 of 1%). As a percentage of the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contract, the average error in daily tracking by the per share NAV was 2.958%, meaning that over this time period UNL's tracking error was within the plus or minus 10% range established as its benchmark tracking goal. The first chart below shows the daily movement of UNL's per share NAV versus the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contracts for the 30-valuation day period ended December 31, 2017, the last trading day in December. The second chart below shows the monthly total returns of UNL as compared to the monthly value of the Benchmark Futures Contracts for the five years ended December 31, 2017.

Since the commencement of the offering of UNL's shares to the public on November 18, 2009 to December 31, 2017, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contracts was (0.065)%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of UNL over the same time period was (0.067)%. The average daily difference was (0.002)% (or (0.2) basis points, where 1 basis point equals 1/100 of 1%). As a percentage of the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, the average error in daily tracking by the per share NAV was (0.095)%, meaning that over this time period UNL's tracking error was within the plus or minus 10% range established as its benchmark tracking goal.

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

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An alternative tracking measurement of the return performance of UNL versus the return of the Benchmark Futures Contracts can be calculated by comparing the actual return of UNL, measured by changes in its per share NAV, versus the expected changes in its per share NAV under the assumption that UNL's returns had been exactly the same as the daily changes in its Benchmark Futures Contracts.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the actual total return of UNL as measured by changes in its per share NAV was (21.19)%. This is based on an initial per share NAV of \$11.75 as of December 31, 2016 and an ending per share NAV as of December 31, 2017 of \$9.26. During this time period, UNL made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if UNL's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, UNL would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$9.22 as of December 31, 2017, for a total return over the relevant time period of (21.53)%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of UNL of (21.19)% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contracts of (21.53)% was an error over the time period of 0.34%, which is to say that UNL's actual total return outperformed the benchmark result by that percentage. UNL incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses, offset by interest and dividend income, and net of positive or negative execution, tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNL to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.

By comparison, for the year ended December 31, 2016, the actual total return of UNL as measured by changes in its per share NAV was 20.88%. This was based on an initial per share NAV of \$9.72 as of December 31, 2015 and an ending per share NAV as of December 31, 2016 of \$11.75. During this time period, UNL made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if UNL's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, UNL would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$12.98 as of December 31, 2016, for a total return over the relevant time period of 33.54%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of UNL of 20.88% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contracts of 33.54% was an error over the time period of (12.66)%, which is to say that UNL's actual total return underperformed the benchmark result by that percentage. UNL incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses, offset by interest and dividend income, and net of positive or negative execution, tended to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNL to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.

By comparison, for the year ended December 31, 2015, the actual total return of UNL as measured by changes in its per share NAV was (29.00)%. This was based on an initial per share NAV of \$13.69 on December 31, 2014 and an ending per share NAV as of December 31, 2015 of \$9.72. During this time period, UNL made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if UNL's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, UNL would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$9.80 as of December 31, 2015, for a total return over the relevant time period of (28.41)%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of UNL of (29.00)% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contracts of (28.41)% was an error over the time period of (0.59)%, which is to say that UNL's actual total return underperformed the benchmark result by that percentage. UNL incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The



impact of these expenses, offset by interest and dividend income, and net of positive or negative execution, tended to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNL to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts.

There are currently three factors that have impacted or are most likely to impact UNL's ability to accurately track its Benchmark Futures Contracts.

First, UNL may buy or sell its holdings in the then current Benchmark Futures Contracts at a price other than the closing settlement price of that contract on the day during which UNL executes the trade. In that case, UNL may pay a price that is higher, or lower, than that of the Benchmark Futures Contracts, which could cause the changes in the daily per share NAV of UNL to either be too high or too low relative to the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contracts. During the year ended December 31, 2017, USCF attempted to minimize the effect of these transactions by seeking to execute its purchase or sale of the Benchmark Futures Contracts at, or as close as possible to, the end of the day settlement price. However, it may not always be possible for UNL to obtain the closing settlement price and there is no assurance that failure to obtain the closing settlement price in the future will not adversely impact UNL's attempt to track the Benchmark Futures Contracts over time.

Second, UNL incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNL to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. At the same time, UNL earns dividend and interest income on its cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries. UNL is not required to distribute any portion of its income to its shareholders and did not make any distributions to shareholders during the year ended December 31, 2017. Interest payments, and any other income, were retained within the portfolio and added to UNL's NAV. When this income exceeds the level of UNL's expenses for its management fee, brokerage commissions and other expenses (including ongoing registration fees, licensing fees and the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF), UNL will realize a net yield that will tend to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of UNL to track slightly higher than daily changes in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. If short-term interest rates rise above the current levels, the level of deviation created by the yield would decrease. Conversely, if short-term interest rates were to decline, the amount of error created by the yield would increase. When short-term yields drop to a level lower than the combined expenses of the management fee and the brokerage commissions, then the tracking error becomes a negative number and would tend to cause the daily returns of the per share NAV to underperform the daily returns of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. USCF anticipates that interest rates may continue to increase over the near future from historical lows. However, it is anticipated that fees and expenses paid by UNL may continue to be higher than interest earned by UNL. As such, USCF anticipates that UNL will continue to underperform its benchmark until such a time when interest earned at least equals or exceeds the fees and expenses paid by UNL.

Third, UNL may hold Other Natural Gas-Related Investments in its portfolio that may fail to closely track the Benchmark Futures Contract's total return movements. In that case, the error in tracking the Benchmark Futures Contracts could result in daily changes in the per share NAV of UNL that are either too high, or too low, relative to the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contracts. During the year ended December 31, 2017, UNL did not hold any Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. If UNL increases in size, and due to its obligations to comply with regulatory limits, UNL may invest in Other Natural Gas-Related Investments which may have the effect of increasing transaction related expenses and may result in increased tracking error.

*Term Structure of Natural Gas Futures Prices and the Impact on Total Returns.* Several factors determine the total return from investing in futures contracts. One factor arises from "rolling" futures contracts that will expire at the end of the current month (the "near" or "front" month contract) forward each month prior to expiration. For a strategy that entails holding the near month contract, the price relationship between that futures contract and the next month futures contract will impact returns. For example, if the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the next futures month contract (a situation referred to as "backwardation"), then absent any other change, the price of a next month futures contract tends to rise in value as it becomes the near month futures contract and approaches expiration. Conversely, if the price of a near month futures contract is lower than the next month futures contract (a situation referred to as "contango"), then absent any other change, the price of a next month futures contract tends to decline in value as it becomes the near month futures contract and approaches expiration.

As an example, assume that the price of natural gas for immediate delivery, is \$3 per MMBtu, and the value of a position in the near month futures contract is also \$3. Over time, the price of natural gas will fluctuate based on a

number of market factors, including demand for natural gas relative to supply. The value of the near month futures contract will likewise fluctuate in reaction to a number of market factors. If an investor seeks to maintain a position in a near month futures contract and not take delivery of physical MMBtu of natural gas, the investor must sell the current near month futures contract as it approaches expiration and invest in the next month futures contract. In order to continue holding a position in the current near month futures contract, this “roll” forward of the futures contract must be executed every month.

Contango and backwardation are natural market forces that have impacted the total return on an investment in UNL’s shares during the past year relative to a hypothetical direct investment in natural gas. In the future, it is likely that the relationship between the market price of UNL’s shares and changes in the spot prices of natural gas will continue to be impacted by contango and backwardation. It is important to note that this comparison ignores the potential costs associated with physically owning and storing natural gas, which could be substantial.

If the futures market is in backwardation, e.g., when the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the price of the next month futures contract, the investor would buy a next month futures contract for a lower price than the current near month futures contract. Assuming the price of the next month futures contract was \$2.94 per MMBtu, or 2% cheaper than the \$3 near month futures contract, then, hypothetically, and assuming no other changes (e.g., to either prevailing natural gas prices or the price relationship between the spot price, the near month contract and the next month contract, and, ignoring the impact of commission costs and the income earned on cash and/or cash equivalents), the value of the \$2.94 next month futures contract would rise to \$3 as it approaches expiration. In this example, the value of an investment in the next month futures contract would tend to outperform the spot price of natural gas. As a result, it would be possible for the new near month futures contract to rise 12% while the spot price of natural gas may have risen a lower amount, e.g., only 10%. Similarly, the spot price of natural gas could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the futures contract might have fallen another amount, e.g., only 8%. Over time, if backwardation remained constant, this difference between the spot price and the futures contract price would continue to increase.

If the futures market is in contango, an investor would be buying a next month futures contract for a higher price than the current near month futures contract. Again, assuming the near month futures contract is \$3 per MMBtu, the price of the next month futures contract might be \$3.06 per MMBtu, or 2% more expensive than the front month futures contract. Hypothetically, and assuming no other changes, the value of the \$3.06 next month futures contract would fall to \$3 as it approaches expiration. In this example, the value of an investment in the second month would tend to underperform the spot price of natural gas. As a result, it would be possible for the new near month futures contract to rise only 10% while the spot price of natural gas may have risen a higher amount, e.g., 12%. Similarly, the spot price of natural gas could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the second month futures contract might have fallen another amount, e.g., 12%. Over time, if contango remained constant, this difference between the spot price and the futures contract price would continue to increase.

The chart below compares the daily price of the near month natural gas futures contract to the price of 13<sup>th</sup> month natural gas futures contract (i.e., a contract one year forward) over the last 10 years. When the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract, the market would be described as being in backwardation. When the price of the near month futures contract is lower than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract, the market would be described as being in contango. Although the price of the near month futures contract and the price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract tend to move together, it can be seen that at times the near month futures contract prices are higher than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract prices (backwardation) and, at other times, the near month futures contract prices are lower than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract prices (contango).

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An alternative way to view the same data is to subtract the dollar price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month natural gas futures contract from the dollar price of the near month natural gas futures contract, as shown in the chart below. When the difference is positive, the market is in backwardation. When the difference is negative, the market is in contango. The natural gas market spent time in both backwardation and contango during the last ten years. The chart below shows the results from subtracting the average dollar price of the near 12-month contracts from the near month price for the 10-year period between December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2017. Investors will note that the natural gas market spent time in both backwardation and contango.

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An investment in a portfolio that owned only the near month natural gas futures contract would likely produce a different result than an investment in a portfolio that owned an equal number of each of the near 12 months' of natural gas futures contracts. Generally speaking, when the natural gas futures market is in backwardation, a portfolio of only the near month natural gas futures contract may tend to have a higher total return than a portfolio of 12 months' of the natural gas futures contract. Conversely, if the natural gas futures market was in contango, the portfolio containing only 12 months' of natural gas futures contracts may tend to outperform the portfolio holding only the near month natural gas futures contract.

Historically, the natural gas futures markets have experienced periods of contango and backwardation, with backwardation being in place roughly as often as contango since oil futures trading started in 1982. Following the global financial crisis in the fourth quarter of 2008, the natural gas market moved into contango and remained in contango for a period of several years. During parts of 2009, the level of contango was unusually steep as a combination of slack U.S. and global demand for natural gas and issues involving the physical transportation and storage of natural gas at Cushing, Oklahoma, the primary pricing point for oil traded in the U.S., led to unusually high inventories of natural gas. A combination of improved transportation and storage capacity, along with growing demand for natural gas globally, moderated the inventory build-up and led to reduced levels of contango by 2011. However, at the end of November, 2014, global natural gas inventories grew rapidly after OPEC decided to defend its market share against U.S. shale-oil producers, resulting in another period during which the natural gas market remained primarily in contango, sometimes steep contango. This period of contango continued through December 31, 2016. In addition, the natural gas markets are expected to remain in contango until U.S. and global oil inventories decline significantly. If OPEC's recent cuts in oil production have their intended effect on the natural gas market then such a decline may occur in 2017.

Periods of contango or backwardation do not materially impact UNL's investment objective of having the daily percentage changes in its per share NAV track the daily percentage changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contracts since the impact of backwardation and contango tend to equally impact the daily percentage changes in

price of both UNL's shares and the Benchmark Futures Contracts. It is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty whether backwardation or contango will occur in the future. It is likely that both conditions will occur during different periods.

*Natural Gas Market.* During the year ended December 31, 2016, natural gas prices in the United States were volatile and finished the period lower than the beginning of the year. Prices were impacted by several factors. Colder weather in some parts of the country during the early months of 2016 increased demand for natural gas, while a historic storage surplus that has weighed on prices in recent year exceeded the five-year average and prior year levels. As of December 31, 2016, the amount of natural gas in storage had reached 3,311 billion cubic feet, which was approximately 0.06% below the five-year average and 9.11% below prior year levels.

By comparison during the year ended December 31, 2015, natural gas prices in the United States were volatile and finished the period lower than the beginning of the year. Prices were impacted by several factors. Colder weather in some parts of the country during the early months of 2015 increased demand for natural gas, while a historic storage surplus that has weighed on prices in recent year exceeded the five-year average and prior year levels. As of December 31, 2015, the amount of natural gas in storage had reached 3,756 billion cubic feet, which was approximately 14% above the five-year average and 17% above prior year levels.

By comparison, during the year ended December 31, 2014, natural gas prices in the United States were volatile and finished the period lower than the beginning of the year. Prices were impacted by several factors. Colder weather in some parts of the country during the early months of 2014 increased demand for natural gas, while a historic storage surplus that had weighed on prices in recent years fell below the five-year average and 2013 levels. From April through October, strong weekly supply injections allowed inventory levels to recover, and a combination of warmer weather and weak storage withdraws heading into the winter resulted in inventories returning to approximate 5-year average levels. As of December 31, 2014, the amount of natural gas in storage had reached 3,089 billion cubic feet, which was approximately 2.1% below the five-year average and 0.09% above 2013 levels.

*Natural Gas Price Movements in Comparison to Other Energy Commodities and Investment Categories.* USCF believes that investors frequently measure the degree to which prices or total returns of one investment or asset class move up or down in value in concert with another investment or asset class. Statistically, such a measure is usually done by measuring the correlation of the price movements of the two different investments or asset classes over some period of time. The correlation is scaled between 1 and -1, where 1 indicates that the two investment options move up or down in price or value together, known as “positive correlation,” and -1 indicates that they move in completely opposite directions, known as “negative correlation.” A correlation of 0 would mean that the movements of the two are neither positively nor negatively correlated, known as “non-correlation.” That is, the investment options sometimes move up and down together and other times move in opposite directions.

For the ten-year time period between December 31, 2007, and December 31, 2017, the table below compares the monthly movements of natural gas prices versus the monthly movements of the prices of several other energy commodities, such as crude oil, diesel-heating oil, and unleaded gasoline, as well as several major non-commodity investment asset classes, such as large cap U.S. equities, U.S. government bonds and global equities. It can be seen that over this particular time period, the movement of natural gas on a monthly basis was neither strongly correlated nor inversely correlated with the movements of large cap U.S. equities, U.S. Government bonds, global equities, crude

oil, diesel-heating oil, or unleaded gasoline.

	Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)	U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)	Global Equities (FTSE World Index)	Crude Oil	Diesel-Heating Oil	Unleaded Gasoline	Natural Gas
Correlation Matrix December 31, 2007 - December 31, 2017*	1.000	(0.277 )	0.965	0.467	0.442	0.448	0.076
U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)		1.000	(0.250 )	(0.387)	(0.337 )	(0.348 )	(0.025)
Global Equities (FTSE World Index)			1.000	0.517	0.481	0.487	0.115
Crude Oil				1.000	0.806	0.697	0.257
Diesel-Heating Oil					1.000	0.729	0.258
Unleaded Gasoline						1.000	0.146
Natural Gas							1.000

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***



The table below covers a more recent, but much shorter, range of dates than the above table. Over the one year period ended December 31, 2017, the movement of natural gas remained neither strongly correlated nor inversely correlated with U.S. Government bonds, crude oil or diesel-heating oil. Movement of natural gas was somewhat negatively correlated with large U.S. equities and global equities and limited correlation with unleaded gasoline.

Correlation Matrix	Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)	U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)	Global Equities (FTSE World Index)	Crude Oil	Diesel-Heating Oil	Unleaded Gasoline	Natural Gas
12 Months ended December 31, 2017*	1.000	(0.309 )	0.812	0.688	0.174	(0.300 )	(0.526)
U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)		1.000	(0.200 )	(0.559)	(0.016 )	0.602	0.060
Global Equities (FTSE World Index)			1.000	0.678	0.169	(0.273 )	(0.592)
Crude Oil				1.000	0.621	(0.213 )	(0.170)
Diesel-Heating Oil					1.000	0.509	0.135
Unleaded Gasoline						1.000	0.384
Natural Gas							1.000

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

Investors are cautioned that the historical price relationships between natural gas and various other energy commodities, as well as other investment asset classes, as measured by correlation may not be reliable predictors of future price movements and correlation results. The results pictured above would have been different if a different range of dates had been selected. USCF believes that natural gas has historically not demonstrated a strong correlation with equities or bonds over long periods of time. However, USCF also believes that in the future it is possible that natural gas could have long term correlation results that indicate prices of natural gas more closely track the movements of equities or bonds. In addition, USCF believes that, when measured over time periods shorter than ten years, there will always be some periods where the correlation of natural gas to equities and bonds will be either more strongly positively correlated or more strongly negatively correlated than the long term historical results suggest.

The correlations between natural gas, crude oil, diesel-heating oil and gasoline are relevant because USCF endeavors to invest UNL's assets in natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments so that daily changes in percentage terms in UNL's per share NAV correlate as closely as possible with daily changes in percentage terms in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts. If certain other fuel-based commodity futures contracts do not closely correlate with the natural gas Futures Contracts, then their use could lead to greater tracking error. As noted above, USCF also believes that the changes in percentage terms in the average of the prices of the Benchmark Futures Contracts will closely correlate with changes in percentage terms in the spot price of natural gas.

## Critical Accounting Policies

Preparation of the financial statements and related disclosures in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the application of appropriate accounting rules and guidance, as well as the use of estimates. UNL's application of these policies involves judgments and actual results may differ from the estimates used.

USCF has evaluated the nature and types of estimates that it makes in preparing UNL's financial statements and related disclosures and has determined that the valuation of its investments, which are not traded on a United States or internationally recognized futures exchange (such as forward contracts and OTC swaps) involves a critical accounting policy. The values which are used by UNL for its natural gas Futures Contracts are provided by its commodity broker who uses market prices when available, while OTC swaps are valued based on the present value of estimated future cash flows that would be received from or paid to a third party in settlement of these derivative contracts prior to their delivery date and valued on a daily basis. In addition, UNL estimates interest and dividend income on a daily basis using prevailing rates earned on its cash and cash equivalents. These estimates are adjusted to the actual amount received on a monthly basis and the difference, if any, is not considered material.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

UNL has not made, and does not anticipate making, use of borrowings or other lines of credit to meet its obligations. UNL has met, and it is anticipated that UNL will continue to meet, its liquidity needs in the normal course of business from the proceeds of the sale of its investments, or from the Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents that it intends to hold at all times. UNL's liquidity needs include: redeeming shares, providing margin deposits for its existing natural gas Futures Contracts or the purchase of additional natural gas Futures Contracts and posting collateral for its OTC swaps, if applicable, and payment of its expenses, summarized below under "*Contractual Obligations.*"

UNL currently generates cash primarily from: (i) the sale of baskets consisting of 50,000 shares ("Creation Baskets") and (ii) income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents. UNL has allocated substantially all of its net assets to trading in Natural Gas Interests. UNL invests in Natural Gas Interests to the fullest extent possible without being leveraged or unable to satisfy its current or potential margin or collateral obligations with respect to its investments in natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments. A significant portion of UNL's NAV is held in cash and cash equivalents that are used as margin and as collateral for its trading in Natural Gas Interests. The balance of the assets is held in UNL's account at its custodian bank and in Treasuries at the FCM. Income received from UNL's investments in money market funds and Treasuries is paid to UNL. During the year ended December 31, 2017, UNL's expenses exceeded the income UNL earned and the cash earned from the sale of Creation Baskets and the redemption of Redemption Baskets. During the year ended December 31, 2016, UNL's expenses exceeded the income

UNL earned and the cash earned from the sale of Creation Baskets and the redemption of Redemption Baskets. To the extent expenses exceed income, UNL's NAV will be negatively impacted.

UNL's investments in Natural Gas Interests may be subject to periods of illiquidity because of market conditions, regulatory considerations and other reasons. For example, most commodity exchanges limit the fluctuations in futures contracts prices during a single day by regulations referred to as "daily limits." During a single day, no trades may be executed at prices beyond the daily limit. Once the price of a futures contract has increased or decreased by an amount equal to the daily limit, positions in the contracts can neither be taken nor liquidated unless the traders are willing to effect trades at or within the specified daily limit. Such market conditions could prevent UNL from promptly liquidating its positions in natural gas Futures Contracts. During the year ended December 31, 2017, UNL did not purchase or liquidate any of its positions while daily limits were in effect; however, UNL cannot predict whether such an event may occur in the future.

Since the initial offering of shares, UNL has been responsible for expenses relating to: (i) management fees, (ii) brokerage fees and commissions, (iii) licensing fees for the use of intellectual property, (iv) ongoing registration expenses in connection with offers and sales of its shares subsequent to the initial offering, (v) other expenses, including tax reporting costs, (vi) fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and (vii) other extraordinary expenses not in the ordinary course of business, while USCF has been responsible for expenses relating to the fees of UNL's Marketing Agent, Administrator and Custodian and registration expenses relating to the initial offering of shares. If USCF and UNL are unsuccessful in raising sufficient funds to cover these respective expenses or in locating any other source of funding, UNL will terminate and investors may lose all or part of their investment.

## **Market Risk**

Trading in natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, such as forwards, involves UNL entering into contractual commitments to purchase or sell natural gas at a specified date in the future. The aggregate market value of the contracts will significantly exceed UNL's future cash requirements since UNL intends to close out its open positions prior to settlement. As a result, UNL is generally only subject to the risk of loss arising from the change in value of the contracts. UNL considers the "fair value" of its derivative instruments to be the unrealized gain or loss on the contracts. The market risk associated with UNL's commitments to purchase natural gas is limited to the aggregate market value of the contracts held. However, should UNL enter into a contractual commitment to sell natural gas, it would be required to make delivery of the natural gas at the contract price, repurchase the contract at prevailing prices or settle in cash. Since there are no limits on the future price of natural gas, the market risk to UNL could be unlimited.

UNL's exposure to market risk depends on a number of factors, including the markets for natural gas, the volatility of interest rates and foreign exchange rates, the liquidity of the natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments markets and the relationships among the contracts held by UNL. Drastic market occurrences could ultimately lead to the loss of all or substantially all of an investor's capital.

## **Credit Risk**

When UNL enters into natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments, it is exposed to the credit risk that the counterparty will not be able to meet its obligations. The counterparty for the natural gas Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX and on most other futures exchanges is the clearinghouse associated with the particular exchange. In general, in addition to margin required to be posted by the clearinghouse in connection with cleared trades, clearinghouses are backed by their members who may be required to share in the financial burden resulting from the nonperformance of one of their members and, therefore, this additional member support should significantly reduce credit risk. UNL is not currently a member of any clearinghouse. Some foreign exchanges are not backed by their clearinghouse members but may be backed by a consortium of banks or other financial institutions. There can be no assurance that any counterparty, clearinghouse, or their members or their financial backers will satisfy their obligations to UNL in such circumstances.

USCF attempts to manage the credit risk of UNL by following various trading limitations and policies. In particular, UNL generally posts margin and/or holds liquid assets that are approximately equal to the market value of its obligations to counterparties under the natural gas Futures Contracts and Other Natural Gas-Related Investments it holds. USCF has implemented procedures that include, but are not limited to, executing and clearing trades only with creditworthy parties and/or requiring the posting of collateral or margin by such parties for the benefit of UNL to limit its credit exposure. An FCM, when acting on behalf of UNL in accepting orders to purchase or sell natural gas Futures

Contracts on United States exchanges, is required by CFTC regulations to separately account for and segregate as belonging to UNL, all assets of UNL relating to domestic natural gas Futures Contracts trading. FCMs are not allowed to commingle UNL's assets with their other assets. In addition, the CFTC requires commodity brokers to hold in a secure account UNL's assets related to foreign natural gas Futures Contracts trading.

In the future, UNL may purchase OTC swaps, see "*Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk*" in this annual report on Form 10-K for a discussion of OTC swaps.

As of December 31, 2017, UNL held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries and money market funds in the amount of \$8,918,876 with the custodian and FCM. Some or all of these amounts held by a custodian or an FCM, as applicable, may be subject to loss should UNL's custodian or FCM, as applicable, cease operations.

### **Off Balance Sheet Financing**

As of December 31, 2017, UNL had no loan guarantee, credit support or other off-balance sheet arrangements of any kind other than agreements entered into in the normal course of business, which may include indemnification provisions relating to certain risks that service providers undertake in performing services which are in the best interests of UNL. While UNL's exposure under these indemnification provisions cannot be estimated, they are not expected to have a material impact on UNL's financial position.

### **European Sovereign Debt**

UNL had no direct exposure to European sovereign debt as of December 31, 2017 and has no direct exposure to European sovereign debt as of the filing of this annual report on Form 10-K.

### **Redemption Basket Obligation**

In order to meet its investment objective and pay its contractual obligations described below, UNL requires liquidity to redeem shares, which redemptions must be in blocks of 50,000 shares called "Redemption Baskets." UNL has to date satisfied this obligation by paying from the cash or cash equivalents it holds or through the sale of its Treasuries in an amount proportionate to the number of shares being redeemed.

### **Contractual Obligations**

UNL's primary contractual obligations are with USCF. In return for its services, USCF is entitled to a management fee calculated daily and paid monthly as a fixed percentage of UNL's NAV, currently 0.75% of NAV on its average daily total net assets.

USCF agreed to pay the start-up costs associated with the formation of UNL, primarily its legal, accounting and other costs in connection with USCF's registration with the CFTC as a CPO and the registration and listing of UNL and its shares with the SEC, FINRA and NYSE Arca (formerly, AMEX), respectively. However, since UNL's initial offering of shares, offering costs incurred in connection with registering and listing additional shares of UNL have been directly borne on an ongoing basis by UNL, and not by USCF.

USCF pays the fees of the Marketing Agent and the fees of BBH&Co., as well as BBH&Co.'s fees for performing administrative services, including those in connection with the preparation of UNL's financial statements and its SEC, NFA and CFTC reports. USCF and UNL have also entered into a licensing agreement with the NYMEX pursuant to which UNL and the Related Public Funds, other than BNO, USCI, CPER, USAG, USOU and USOD, pay a licensing fee to the NYMEX. UNL also pays the fees and expenses associated with its tax accounting and reporting requirements. USCF has voluntarily agreed to pay certain expenses typically borne by UNL to the extent that such expenses exceeded 0.15% (15 basis points) of UNL's NAV, on an annualized basis. USCF has no obligation to continue such payments into subsequent periods. This voluntary expense waiver is in addition to those amounts USCF is contractually obligated to pay as described in *Note 4* to the *Notes to Financial Statements* in *Item 8* of this annual report on Form 10-K.

In addition to USCF's management fee, UNL pays its brokerage fees (including fees to an FCM), OTC dealer spreads, any licensing fees for the use of intellectual property, and, subsequent to the initial offering, registration and other fees paid to the SEC, FINRA, or other regulatory agencies in connection with the offer and sale of shares, as well as legal, printing, accounting and other expenses associated therewith, and extraordinary expenses. The latter are expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of UNL's business, including expenses relating to the indemnification of any person against liabilities and obligations to the extent permitted by law and under the LP Agreement, the bringing or defending of actions in law or in equity or otherwise conducting litigation and incurring legal expenses and the settlement of claims and litigation. Commission payments to an FCM are on a contract-by-contract, or round turn, basis. UNL also pays a portion of the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF. See *Note 3* to the *Notes to Financial Statements* in *Item 8* of this annual report on Form 10-K.

The parties cannot anticipate the amount of payments that will be required under these arrangements for future periods, as UNL's per share NAVs and trading levels to meet its investment objective will not be known until a future date. These agreements are effective for a specific term agreed upon by the parties with an option to renew, or, in some cases, are in effect for the duration of UNL's existence. Either party may terminate these agreements earlier for certain reasons described in the agreements.

As of December 31, 2017, UNL's portfolio consisted of 292 Natural Gas Futures NG Contracts traded on the NYMEX. As of December 31, 2017, UNL did not hold any natural gas Futures Contracts traded on the ICE Futures. For a list of UNL's current holdings, please see UNL's website at [www.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.com).



Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

***Commodity Price Risk.***

UNL is exposed to commodity price risk. In particular, UNL is exposed to natural gas price risk through its holdings of natural gas Futures Contracts together with any other derivatives in which it may invest, which are discussed below. As a result, fluctuations in the value of the natural gas Futures Contracts that UNL holds in its portfolio, as described in “*Contractual Obligations*” under “*Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*” above, are expected to directly affect the value of UNL’s shares.

***OTC Contract Risk***

UNL may purchase OTC contracts such as forward contracts or swap or spot contracts. Unlike most exchange-traded futures contracts or exchange-traded options on such futures, each party to an OTC swap bears the credit risk that the other party may not be able to perform its obligations under its contract.

UNL may enter into certain transactions where an OTC component is exchanged for a corresponding futures contract (“Exchange for Related Position” or “EFRP” transactions). In the most common type of EFRP transaction entered into by UNL, the OTC component is the purchase or sale of one or more baskets of UNL shares. These EFRP transactions may expose UNL to counterparty risk during the interim period between the execution of the OTC component and the exchange for a corresponding futures contract. Generally, the counterparty risk from the EFRP transaction will exist only on the day of execution.

Swap transactions, like other financial transactions, involve a variety of significant risks. The specific risks presented by a particular swap transaction necessarily depend upon the terms and circumstances of the transaction. In general, however, all swap transactions involve some combination of market risk, credit risk, counterparty credit risk, funding risk, liquidity risk and operational risk.

Highly customized swap transactions in particular may increase liquidity risk, which may result in a suspension of redemptions. Highly leveraged transactions may experience substantial gains or losses in value as a result of relatively small changes in the value or level of an underlying or related market factor.

In evaluating the risks and contractual obligations associated with a particular swap transaction, it is important to consider that a swap transaction may be modified or terminated only by mutual consent of the original parties and subject to agreement on individually negotiated terms. Therefore, it may not be possible for USCF to modify, terminate or offset UNL's obligations or its exposure to the risks associated with a transaction prior to its scheduled termination date.

To reduce the credit risk that arises in connection with such contracts, UNL will generally enter into an agreement with each counterparty based on the Master Agreement published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association that provides for the netting of its overall exposure to its counterparty, if the counterparty is unable to meet its obligations to UNL due to the occurrence of a specified event, such as the insolvency of the counterparty.

USCF assesses or reviews, as appropriate, the creditworthiness of each potential or existing counterparty to an OTC swap pursuant to guidelines approved by USCF's board of directors (the "Board"). Furthermore, USCF on behalf of UNL only enters into OTC swaps with counterparties who are, or are affiliates of, (a) banks regulated by a United States federal bank regulator, (b) broker-dealers regulated by the SEC, (c) insurance companies domiciled in the United States, or (d) producers, users or traders of energy, whether or not regulated by the CFTC. Any entity acting as a counterparty shall be regulated in either the United States or the United Kingdom unless otherwise approved by the Board after consultation with its legal counsel. Existing counterparties are also reviewed periodically by USCF. UNL will also require that the counterparty be highly rated and/or provide collateral or other credit support. Even if collateral is used to reduce counterparty credit risk, sudden changes in the value of OTC transactions may leave a party open to financial risk due to a counterparty default since the collateral held may not cover a party's exposure on the transaction in such situations.

In general, valuing OTC derivatives is less certain than valuing actively traded financial instruments such as exchange-traded futures contracts and securities or cleared swaps because the price and terms on which such OTC derivatives are entered into or can be terminated are individually negotiated, and those prices and terms may not reflect the best price or terms available from other sources. In addition, while market makers and dealers generally quote indicative prices or terms for entering into or terminating OTC swaps, they typically are not contractually obligated to do so, particularly if they are not a party to the transaction. As a result, it may be difficult to obtain an independent value for an outstanding OTC derivatives transaction.

During the reporting period of this annual report on Form 10-K, UNL limited its OTC activities to EFRP transactions.

UNL anticipates that the use of Other Natural Gas-Related Investments together with its investments in natural gas Futures Contracts will produce price and total return results that closely track the investment goals of UNL. However, there can be no assurance of this. OTC swaps may result in higher transaction-related expenses than the brokerage commissions paid in connection with the purchase of natural gas Futures Contracts, which may impact UNL's ability to successfully track the Benchmark Futures Contract.



Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

**United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP**

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**Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.**

USCF assessed the effectiveness of UNL's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017. In making this assessment, it used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control Integrated Framework (2013). Based on the assessment, USCF believes that, as of December 31, 2017, UNL's internal control over financial reporting is effective.

## **REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Partners of

United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP

### **Opinions on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial condition of United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP (the "Fund") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, including the schedule of investments as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of operations, changes in partners' capital and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinion**

The Fund's management is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits of the financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

/s/ Spicer Jeffries LLP

We have served as the Fund's auditor since 2008.

Greenwood Village, Colorado

March 21, 2018

*United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP**Statements of Financial Condition**At December 31, 2017 and 2016*

	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (at cost \$7,217,601 and \$15,061,018, respectively) (Notes 2 and 5)	\$ 7,217,601	\$ 15,061,018
Equity in trading accounts:		
Cash and cash equivalents (at cost \$1,701,275 and \$699,804, respectively)	1,701,275	699,804
Unrealized gain (loss) on open commodity futures contracts	(568,922	) 2,796,004
Receivable from General Partner (Note 3)	61,713	102,092
Dividends receivable	2,319	1,488
Interest receivable	88	—
Directors' fees and insurance receivable	66	—
ETF transaction fees receivable	—	350
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,414,140</b>	<b>\$ 18,660,756</b>
<b>Liabilities and Partners' Capital</b>		
Payable due to Broker	\$ —	\$ 2,099,689
General Partner management fees payable (Note 3)	5,493	10,437
Professional fees payable	72,695	102,301
Brokerage commissions payable	1,181	1,801