

**U.S. GLOBAL INVESTORS FUNDS**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**INVESTOR CLASS SHARES**

**GLOBAL LUXURY GOODS FUND (USLUX)**

**GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS FUND (USERX)**

**WORLD PRECIOUS MINERALS FUND (UNWPX)**

**GLOBAL RESOURCES FUND (PSPFX)**

**NEAR-TERM TAX FREE FUND (NEARX)**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES ULTRA-SHORT BOND FUND (UGSDX)**

U.S. Global Investors Funds (Trust) is an open-end series investment company. This Statement of Additional Information is not a prospectus. You should read it in conjunction with the prospectus dated May 1, 2025, which you may request from U.S. Global Investors Funds, P.O. Box 588, Portland, Maine 04112, or 1-800-US-FUNDS (1-800-873-8637).

Financial statements for the Funds' for the year ended December 31, 2024 are included in the Funds' most recent Form N-CSR and are incorporated into this SAI by reference. Copies of the Prospectus, shareholder report, and/or financial statements may be obtained without charge and upon request, by contacting the address or telephone number listed above.

The date of this Statement of Additional Information is May 1, 2025.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Trust is permitted to offer separate series (*i.e.*, funds) and different classes of shares, and additional series and/or classes may be created from time to time. This Statement of Additional Information (SAI) relates to the Investor Class shares of the Trust. The Trust currently offers six funds, each of which issue Investor Class shares.

The U.S. Global Investors Funds and U.S. Global Accolade Funds merged into a Delaware statutory trust on October 1, 2008, which is named U.S. Global Investors Funds (Trust). The Trust was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on July 31, 2008. The Gold and Precious Metals and World Precious Minerals are non-diversified series, and each of the other funds is a diversified series of the Trust, an open-end management investment company.

Prior to the merger, U.S. Global Investors Funds, an open-end management investment company, was originally incorporated in Texas in 1969 as United Services Funds, Inc. and was reorganized as a Massachusetts business trust on July 31, 1984. The trust changed its name to U.S. Global Investors Funds on February 24, 1997. The Gold and Precious Metals Fund, the World Precious Minerals Fund and the Global Resources Fund were non-diversified series of the trust, and the All American Equity Fund, Near-Term Tax Free Fund and U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund were diversified series of the trust. On February 15, 2002, the World Gold Fund changed its name to the World Precious Minerals Fund. On December 1, 2007, the Gold Shares Fund changed its name to the Gold and Precious Metals Fund. On December 20, 2013, the U.S. Government Securities Savings Fund changed its name to the U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund.

Prior to the merger, U.S. Global Accolade Funds was an open-end management investment company and a Massachusetts business trust organized on April 16, 1993. The Holmes Macro Trends Fund was a diversified series of the trust. The Holmes Macro Trends Fund commenced operations on October 17, 1994. On December 20, 2013, the Holmes Growth Fund changed its name to the Holmes Macro Trends Fund. The Holmes Macro Trends Fund changed its name to the Global Luxury Goods Fund effective July 1, 2020. On December 22, 2020, the All American Equity Fund reorganized and merged into the Global Luxury Goods Fund.

On December 9, 2015, the shareholders of U.S. Global Investors Funds elected five new trustees to the Board of Trustees. This action resulted in U.S. Global Investors Funds engaging Apex Fund Services (“Apex Fund Services”) to provide certain administrative, fund accounting, and/or transfer agency services. The primary reason behind this initiative was to transition the provision of such services to Apex Fund Services so that U.S. Global Investors Funds may realize operational economies of scale; however, there is no guarantee that such projected cost savings will be realized.

The Trust shall accept investments in any series of the Trust from such persons and on such terms as the Trust may from time to time authorize. Investments in a series shall be credited to each shareholder’s account in the form of full or fractional shares at a net asset value per share determined after the investment is received; provided, however, that the Trust may, in its sole discretion, (a) fix the net asset value per share of the initial capital contribution or (b) impose a sales charge or other fee in connection with investments in the Trust in such manner and at such time as determined by the Board of Trustees of the Trust. The Trust shall have the right to refuse to accept investments in any series at any time without any cause or reason therefore whatsoever.

All consideration received by the Trust for the issue or sale of shares of a particular series, together with all assets in which such consideration is invested or reinvested, all income, earnings, profits and proceeds thereof, including any proceeds derived from the sale, exchange or liquidation of such assets, and any funds or payments derived from any reinvestment of such proceeds in whatever form the same may be, shall be held and accounted for separately from the other assets of the Trust and of every other series and may be referred to herein as “assets belonging to” that series. The assets belonging to a particular series shall belong to that series for all purposes, and to no other series, subject only to the rights of creditors of that series. In addition, any assets, income, earnings, profits or funds, or payments and proceeds with respect thereto, which are not readily identifiable as belonging to any particular series shall be allocated by the trustees between and among one or more of the series in such manner as the trustees, in their sole discretion, deem fair and equitable. Each such allocation shall be conclusive and binding upon the shareholders of all series for all purposes, and such assets, income, earnings, profits or funds, or payments and proceeds with respect thereto shall be assets belonging to that series. The assets belonging to a particular series shall be so recorded upon the books of the Trust, and shall be held by the trustees in trust for the benefit of the holders of shares of that series. The assets belonging to each particular series shall be charged with the liabilities of that series and all expenses, costs, charges, and reserves attributable to that series. Any general liabilities, expenses, costs, charges, or reserves of the Trust which are not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series shall be allocated and charged by the trustees between or among any one or more of the series in such manner as the trustees, in their sole discretion, deem fair and equitable. Each such allocation shall be conclusive and binding upon the shareholders of all series for all purposes.

Without limitation of the foregoing, but subject to the right of the trustees in their discretion to allocate general liabilities, expenses, costs, charges, or reserves as herein provided, the debts, liabilities, obligations, and expenses incurred, contracted for or otherwise existing with

respect to a particular series shall be enforceable against the assets of such series and not against the assets of any other series of the assets of the Trust generally. Notice of this contractual limitation on inter-series liabilities may, in the trustee's sole discretion, be set forth in the certificate of trust of the Trust (whether originally or by amendment) as filed or to be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware pursuant to the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (the Delaware Act), and upon the giving of such notice in the certificate of trust, the statutory provisions of Section 3804 of the Delaware Act relating to limitations on liabilities among series (and the statutory effect under Section 3804 of setting forth such notice in the certificate of trust) shall become applicable to the Trust and each series. Any person extending credit to, contracting with or having any claim against any series may look only to the assets of that series to satisfy or enforce any debt, liability, obligation or expense incurred, contracted for or otherwise existing with respect to that series. No shareholder or former shareholder of any series shall have a claim on, or any right to, any assets allocated or belonging to any other series.

Shareholders shall have no preemptive or other right to subscribe to any additional shares or other securities issued by the Trust or the trustees, whether of the same or other series. In addition, shares shall not entitle shareholders to preference, appraisal, conversion or exchange rights (except as specified herein or as specified by the trustees when creating the shares, as in preferred shares). Each share has one vote with respect to matters upon which a shareholder vote is required consistent with the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act) and the rules promulgated thereunder. Shareholders receive one vote for every full fund share owned. Each fund or class of a fund, if applicable, will vote separately on matters relating solely to that fund or class. All shares of the funds are freely transferable.

As a Delaware statutory trust, the Trust is not required to hold annual shareholder meetings unless otherwise required by the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act). However, a meeting may be called by shareholders owning at least 10% of the outstanding shares of the Trust. If a meeting is requested by shareholders, the Trust will provide appropriate assistance and information to the shareholders who requested the meeting. Shareholder inquiries can be made by calling 1-800-873-8637 or by writing to the Trust at Apex Fund Services, c/o U.S. Global Investors Funds, P.O. Box 588, Portland, Maine 04112.

Each shareholder of the Trust and of each series shall not be personally liable for debts, liabilities, obligations and expenses incurred by, contracted for, or otherwise existing with respect to, the Trust or by or on behalf of any series. The trustees shall have no power to bind any shareholder personally or to call upon any shareholder for the payment of any sum of money or assessment whatsoever other than such as the shareholder may at any time personally agree to pay by way of subscription for any shares or otherwise. Every note, bond, contract or other undertaking issued by or on behalf of the Trust or the trustees relating to the Trust or to a series shall include a recitation limiting the obligation represented thereby to the Trust or to one or more series and its or their assets (but the omission of such a recitation shall not operate to bind any shareholder or trustee of the Trust). Shareholders shall have the same limitation of personal liability as is extended to shareholders of a private corporation for profit incorporated in the State of Delaware. Every written obligation of the Trust or any series shall contain a statement to the effect that such obligation may only be enforced against the assets of the appropriate series or all series; however, the omission of such statement shall not operate to bind or create personal liability for any shareholder or trustee.

Every shareholder, by virtue of having purchased a share, shall become a shareholder and shall be held to have expressly assented and agreed to be bound by the terms of the Agreement and Declaration of Trust.

## **FUND POLICIES**

The following information supplements the discussion of each fund's policies discussed in the funds' prospectus.

**INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS.** If a percentage investment restriction other than a restriction on borrowing is adhered to at the time of investment, a later increase or decrease in percentage, resulting from a change in values of portfolio securities or amount of net assets, will not be considered a violation of any of the following restrictions.

**INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION.** All funds use the Bloomberg Industry Classification System (Bloomberg) for industry classification purposes.

## **FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Each fund will not change any of the following investment restrictions without the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the fund, which, as used herein, means the lesser of (1) 67% of the fund's outstanding shares present at a meeting at which more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the fund are represented either in person or by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the fund's outstanding shares.

A fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, and as interpreted or modified by regulatory authority

having jurisdiction, from time to time.

2. Borrow money, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, and as interpreted or modified by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
3. Engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by other issuers, except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities, the fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933.
4. Purchase or sell real estate, which term does not include securities of companies which deal in real estate and/or mortgages or investments secured by real estate, or interests therein, except that the fund reserves freedom of action to hold and to sell real estate acquired as a result of the fund's ownership of securities.
5. Purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts, except a fund may purchase and sell (i) derivatives (including, but not limited to, options, futures contracts and options on futures contracts) whose value is tied to the value of a financial index or a financial instrument or other asset (including, but not limited to, securities indexes, interest rates, securities, currencies and physical commodities) and (ii) the Gold and Precious Metals Fund, the World Precious Minerals Fund and the Global Resources Fund may purchase precious metals.
6. Make loans except as permitted under the 1940 Act, and as interpreted or modified by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
7. Invest more than 25% of its total assets in securities of companies principally engaged in any one industry (other than obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities), except that the Gold and Precious Metals Fund and World Precious Minerals Fund will invest more than 25% of their total assets in securities of companies involved in the mining, fabrication, processing, marketing or distribution of metals including gold, silver, platinum group, palladium and diamonds; the Global Resources Fund will invest more than 25% of the value of their respective total assets in securities of companies principally engaged in natural resources operations; and the Near-Term Tax Free Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in general obligation bonds, single state bonds, or in securities issued by states or municipalities in connection with the financing of projects with similar characteristics, such as hospital revenue bonds, housing revenue bonds, electric power project bonds, industry revenue bonds of similar type projects.<sup>1</sup>
8. The Near-Term Tax Free Fund invests, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in investment grade municipal securities whose interest is free from federal income tax, including the federal alternative minimum tax.

The Near-Term Tax Free Fund will consider industrial revenue bonds where payment of principal and interest is the ultimate responsibility of companies within the same industry as securities from one industry.

#### **NON-FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The following investment restrictions may be changed by the board of trustees without a shareholder vote.

1. All funds will not borrow money, except that a fund may borrow money for temporary or emergency purposes (not for leveraging or investment) in an amount not exceeding 33⅓% of a fund's total assets (including the amount borrowed) less liabilities (other than borrowings).
2. None of the funds will purchase securities on margin, except (i) short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions, and (ii) margin payments in connection with futures contracts and options on futures contracts shall not constitute purchasing securities on margin. In addition, the Global Luxury Goods Fund, Near-Term Tax Free Fund, and U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund will not make short sales, except short sales against the box shall not constitute selling securities short.

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<sup>1</sup>Although not part of the funds' fundamental investment restriction, for purposes of determining a company's industry, the funds use the Bloomberg Industry Classification System.

## VALUATION OF SHARES

An equity security traded on a stock exchange or market within the Western Hemisphere is generally valued at market closing price on the primary exchange, as deemed appropriate by U.S. Global Investors, Inc. (Adviser) on the valuation date. If there are no sales on the primary exchange that day, an equity security will be valued at the mean between the last bid and ask quotation.

A foreign equity security primarily traded on an exchange or market outside the Western Hemisphere is generally valued at the price that is an estimate of fair value, as provided by an independent third party.

Equity securities traded on NASDAQ are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. If there are no sales that day, such securities will be valued at the mean between the bid and ask quotation, if available. Other over-the-counter securities are valued at the market closing price, if published, or the mean between the last bid and ask quotation, if available.

Municipal debt securities and long-term U.S. Government obligations are each valued by a pricing service that utilizes a matrix pricing system to value such securities.

Debt securities with maturities of sixty days or less at the time of purchase may be valued based on amortized cost. This involves valuing a security at its initial cost on the date of purchase, and afterwards, any discount or premium is accreted or amortized at a constant rate until maturity, regardless of the impact of fluctuating interest rates on the market value of the security.

If market quotations are not readily available, or when the Adviser believes that a readily available market quotation or other valuation produced by the fund's valuation policies is not reliable, the fund values the assets at fair value using procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have delegated pricing authority to the Adviser, as the Fund's valuation designee, for certain pricing issues, as defined in the valuation policies.

Calculation of net asset value may not take place at the same time as the determination of the prices of a portfolio used in such calculations. Events affecting the value of securities that occur between the time prices are established and the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange are not reflected in the calculation of net asset value unless the valuation designee decides that the event would materially affect the net asset value. If the event would materially affect the fund's net asset value, the security will be fair valued by the valuation designee or, at its discretion, by an independent fair valuation vendor.

Net asset value is calculated in U.S. dollars. Assets and liabilities valued in another country are converted to U.S. dollars using the exchange rate in effect at the close of the New York Stock Exchange.

## INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The following information supplements the discussion of each fund's investment strategies and risks in the prospectus.

### ***GLOBAL LUXURY GOODS FUND***

**REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS).** The fund may invest in real estate investment trusts (REITs), which may subject a fund to many of the same risks related to the direct ownership of real estate. These risks may include declines in the value of real estate, risks related to economic factors, changes in demand for real estate, change in property taxes and property operating expenses, casualty losses and changes to zoning laws. REITs are also dependent to some degree on the capabilities of the REIT manager. In addition, the failure of a REIT to continue to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes would have an adverse effect upon the value of a portfolio's investment in that REIT.

### ***GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS FUND, WORLD PRECIOUS MINERALS FUND AND GLOBAL RESOURCES FUND***

**INVESTMENTS IN PRECIOUS MINERALS.** The Gold and Precious Metals Fund, World Precious Minerals Fund and Global Resources Fund may invest in precious minerals such as gold, silver, platinum, and palladium bullion. Because precious minerals do not generate investment income, the return from such investments will be derived solely from the gains and losses realized by the funds upon the sale of the precious minerals. The funds may also incur storage and other costs relating to their investments in precious minerals. Under certain circumstances, these costs may exceed the custodial and brokerage costs associated with investments in portfolio securities. To qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), at least ninety percent (90%) of a fund's gross income for any taxable year must be derived from dividends, interest, gains from the disposition of securities, and income and gains from certain other specified sources and transactions (Gross Income Test). Gains from the disposition of precious metals will not qualify for purposes of satisfying the Gross Income Test. Additionally, to qualify under Subchapter M of the Code, at the close of each quarter of each fund's taxable year, at least fifty percent (50%) of the value of the fund's total assets must be

represented by cash, Government securities and certain other specified assets (Asset Value Test). Investments in precious minerals will not qualify for purposes of satisfying the Asset Value Test. To maintain each fund's qualification as a regulated investment company under the Code, each fund will establish procedures to monitor its investments in precious metals for purposes of satisfying the Gross Income Test and the Asset Value Test. See, "Federal Income Taxes – Taxation of the Funds – In General" below.

***GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS FUND, WORLD PRECIOUS MINERALS FUND, GLOBAL RESOURCES FUND, AND NEAR-TERM TAX FREE FUND***

**INDUSTRY CONCENTRATION.**

Gold and Precious Metals Fund

The Gold and Precious Metals Fund intends to concentrate its investments in common stocks of companies predominately involved in the mining, fabrication, processing, marketing, or distribution of metals including gold, silver, platinum group, palladium and diamonds. Gold companies include mining companies that exploit gold deposits that are supported by co-products and by-products such as copper, silver, lead and zinc, and also diversified mining companies which produce a meaningful amount of gold. The fund focuses on selecting companies with established producing mines. The fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a portfolio representing a broader range of industries. The fund invests in securities that typically respond to changes in the price of gold and other precious metals, which can be influenced by a variety of global economic, financial, and political factors; increased environmental and labor costs in mining; and changes in laws relating to mining or gold production or sales; and the price may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time. Therefore, the fund may be more volatile than other types of investments.

World Precious Minerals Fund

The World Precious Minerals Fund intends to concentrate its investments in securities of companies principally engaged in the exploration for, mining and processing of, or dealing in precious minerals such as gold, silver, platinum, and diamonds. The fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a portfolio representing a broader range of industries. The fund invests in securities that typically respond to changes in the price of gold and other precious minerals, which can be influenced by a variety of global economic, financial and political factors; increased environmental and labor costs in mining; and changes in laws relating to mining or gold production or sales; and the price may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time. Therefore, the fund may be more volatile than other types of investments.

Global Resources Fund

The Global Resources Fund intends to concentrate its investments in securities of companies within the natural resources industries including natural gas, integrated oil companies, oil and gas drilling, oil and gas exploration and production, oil and gas refining, oilfield equipment/services, aluminum, chemicals, diversified metals and coal mining, gold and precious metals, iron and steel, paper and forest products, and uranium. The fund invests in securities vulnerable to factors affecting the natural resources industries, such as increasing regulation of the environment by both U.S. and foreign governments and production and distribution policies of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and other oil producing countries. Increased environmental regulations and limitations on production may, among other things, increase compliance costs and affect business opportunities for the companies in which the fund invests. The value is also affected by changing commodity prices, which can be highly volatile and are subject to risks of oversupply and reduced demand.

Near-Term Tax Free Fund

The Near-Term Tax Free Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in general obligation bonds, single state bonds, or in securities issued by states or municipalities in connection with the financing of projects with similar characteristics, such as hospital revenue bonds, housing revenue bonds, electric power project bonds, industry revenue bonds or similar type projects. General obligation bonds are secured by the taxing power of the issuer. Revenue bonds take many shapes and forms but are generally backed by revenue from a specific project or tax. These types of municipal securities can be significantly affected by adverse tax, legislative, or political changes, changes in the financial condition of the obligors of municipal securities, general economic downturns, and the reallocation of governmental cost burdens among federal, state and local governments. Municipal securities backed by current or anticipated revenues from a specific project or specific assets can be negatively affected by the inability to collect revenues for the project.

***GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS FUND AND WORLD PRECIOUS MINERALS FUND***

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION.** The funds have elected to be classified as non-diversified series. For a diversified fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the securities of any one issuer will not amount to any more than 5% of the value of the fund's total assets or 10%

of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer. Under certain conditions, a non-diversified fund may invest without limit in the securities of any single issuer, subject to certain limitations of the Code. Each fund will comply with the diversification requirements imposed by the Code for qualification as a regulated investment company. Because the funds may invest a greater proportion of their assets in the securities of a small number of issuers, changes in the financial condition or market assessment of a single issuer may cause greater fluctuation and volatility in the funds' total returns or asset valuations than if the funds were required to hold smaller positions of the securities of a larger number of issuers.

### ***NEAR-TERM TAX FREE FUND***

The fund invests primarily in municipal bonds. Municipal securities are generally of two principal types -notes and bonds. Municipal notes generally have maturities of one year or less and provide for short-term capital needs. Municipal bonds normally have maturities of more than one year and meet longer-term needs. Municipal bonds are classified into two principal categories -general obligation bonds and revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are backed by the taxing power of the issuer and are considered the safest type of municipal bond. Revenue bonds are backed by the revenues derived from a project or facility.

The fund invests only in debt securities earning one of the four highest ratings by Moody's Investor's Services (Moody's) (Aaa, Aa, A, Baa) or by Standard & Poors Corporation (S&P) (AAA, AA, A, BBB) (or, if not rated by Moody's or Standard & Poors, as determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality). Not more than 10% of the fund's total assets will be invested in the fourth rating category. Investments in the fourth category may have speculative characteristics and therefore, may involve higher risks. Investments in the fourth rating category of bonds are generally regarded as having an adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal. However, these investments may be more susceptible to adverse changes in the economy. Municipal notes (including variable rate demand obligations) must be rated MIG1/VMIG2 or MIG2/VMIG2 by Moody's or SP-1 or SP-2 by S&P (or if not rated, as determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality). Tax-exempt commercial paper must be rated P-1 or P-2 by Moody's or A-1 or A-2 by S&P (or if not rated, as determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality).

The fund may purchase variable and floating rate obligations from issuers or may acquire participation interest in pools of these obligations from banks or other financial institutions. Variable and floating rate obligations are municipal securities whose interest rates change periodically. They normally have a stated maturity greater than one year, but permit the holder to demand payment of principal and interest anytime or at specified intervals.

The fund may purchase obligations with term puts attached. "Put" bonds are tax-exempt securities that may be sold back to the issuer or a third party at face value before the stated maturity. The put feature may increase the cost of the security, consequently reducing the yield of the security.

The fund may purchase municipal lease obligations or certificates of participation in municipal lease obligations. A municipal lease obligation is not a general obligation of the municipality for which the municipality pledges its taxing power. Ordinarily, a lease obligation will contain a "nonappropriation" clause if the municipality has no obligation to make lease payments in future years unless money is appropriated for that purpose annually. Because of the risk of nonappropriation, some lease obligations are issued with third-party credit enhancements, such as insurance or a letter of credit.

Municipal lease obligations are subject to different revenue streams than are those associated with more conventional municipal securities. For this reason, before investing in a municipal lease obligation, the Adviser will consider, among other things, whether (1) the leased property is essential to a governmental function of the municipality, (2) the municipality is prohibited from substituting or purchasing similar equipment if lease payments are not appropriated and (3) the municipality has maintained good market acceptability for its lease obligations in the past.

The fund may purchase zero-coupon bonds. Zero-coupon bonds are bonds that do not pay interest at regular intervals and are issued at a discount from face value. The discount approximates the total amount of interest the bond will accrue from the date of issuance to maturity. Even though such securities do not pay current interest in cash, the fund is nonetheless required to accrue interest income on these investments and to distribute the interest income at least annually to shareholders. Thus, the fund could be required at times to liquidate other investments to satisfy distribution requirements.

While the fund primarily invests in municipal bonds the income of which is free from federal income taxes, it may also invest in repurchase agreements and other securities that may earn taxable income. Moreover, the funds may sell portfolio securities at a gain, which if held more than a year may be taxed to shareholders as long-term capital gains and if held one year or less may be taxed to shareholders as ordinary income.

Subsequent to a purchase by the fund, an issue of municipal bonds may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum required for purchase by the fund. Neither event will require sale of such municipal bonds by the fund, but the Adviser will consider such

event in its determination of whether the fund should continue to hold the municipal bonds. To the extent that the rating given by Moody's or Standard & Poors for municipal bonds may change as a result of changes in such organizations or their rating systems, the fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance with its investment policies.

**MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC.** Aaa-the "best quality." Aa-"high quality by all standards," but margins of protection or other elements make long-term risks appear somewhat larger than Aaa rated municipal bonds. A-"upper medium grade obligation." Security for principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future. Baa-"medium grade obligations." Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and have speculative characteristics as well.

**STANDARD & POORS CORPORATION.** AAA-"obligation of the highest quality." AA-issues with investment characteristics "only slightly less marked than those of the prime quality issues." A-"the third strongest capacity for payment of debt service." Principal and interest payments on the bonds in this category are considered safe. It differs from the two higher ratings, because with respect to general obligation bonds, there is some weakness, which, under certain adverse circumstances, might impair the ability of the issuer to meet debt obligations at some future date. With respect to revenue bonds, debt service coverage is good but not exceptional, and stability of the pledged revenues could show some variations because of increased competition or economic influences on revenues. BBB-"regarded as having adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal." Whereas it normally exhibits adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal.

**GENERAL INFORMATION ON MUNICIPAL BONDS.** Municipal bonds are generally understood to include debt obligations issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of a wide range of public facilities such as airports, bridges, highways, housing, hospitals, mass transportation, schools, streets, and water and sewer works. Municipal bonds may also be issued to refund outstanding obligations. In addition, certain types of private activity bonds are issued by or on behalf of public authorities to obtain funds to provide privately operated hazardous waste-treatment facilities, certain redevelopment projects, airports, docks, and wharves (other than lodging, retail and office facilities), mass commuting facilities, multifamily residential rental property, sewage and solid waste disposal property, facilities for the furnishing of water, and local furnishing of electric energy or gas or district heating and cooling facilities. Such obligations are considered to be municipal bonds provided that the interest paid thereon qualifies as exempt from federal income tax, in the opinion of bond counsel, to the issuer. In addition, if the proceeds from private activity bonds are used for the construction, equipment, repair or improvement of privately operated industrial or commercial facilities, the interest paid on such bonds may be exempt from federal income tax, although current federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of such issues.

In order to be classified as a "diversified" investment company under the 1940 Act, a mutual fund may not, with respect to 75% of its total assets, invest more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer (except U.S. Government obligations) or own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer. For the purpose of diversification under the 1940 Act, the identification of the issuer of municipal bonds depends on the terms and conditions of the security. When the assets and revenues of an agency, authority, instrumentality, or other political subdivision are separate from those of the government creating the issuing entity and the security is backed only by the assets and revenues of such entity, such entity would be deemed to be the sole issuer. Similarly, in the case of a private activity bond, if that bond is backed only by the assets and revenues of the non-governmental user, then such non-governmental user would be deemed the sole issuer. If, however, in either case the creating government or some other entity guarantees a security, such a guarantee may be considered a separate security and is to be treated as an issue of such government or other entity.

The yields on municipal bonds are dependent on a variety of factors, including general economic and monetary conditions, money market factors, conditions of the municipal bond market, size of a particular offering, maturity of the obligation and rating of the issue. The imposition of a mutual fund's management fees, as well as other operating expenses, will have the effect of reducing the yield to investors.

Municipal bonds are also subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors, such as the Federal Bankruptcy Code and laws, if any, which may be enacted by Congress or state legislatures extending the time for payment of principal or interest, or both, or imposing other constraints upon enforcement of such obligations or upon municipalities by levying taxes. There is also the possibility that, as a result of litigation or other conditions, the power or ability of any one or more issuers to pay, when due, principal and interest on its, or their, municipal bonds may be materially affected. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 enlarged the scope of the alternative minimum tax. As a result, interest on private activity bonds will generally be a preference item for alternative minimum tax purposes.

From time to time, proposals to restrict or eliminate the federal income tax exemption for interest on municipal bonds have been introduced before Congress. Similar proposals may be introduced in the future. If such a proposal were enacted, the availability of municipal bonds for investment by the fund would be adversely affected. In such event, the fund would re-evaluate its investment objective and policies.

**MUNICIPAL NOTES.** Municipal notes are generally used to provide for short-term capital needs and generally have maturities of one year or less. Municipal notes include:

- **Tax Anticipation Notes.** Tax anticipation notes are issued to finance working capital needs of state and local governments. Generally, they are issued in anticipation of various seasonal tax revenues, such as ad valorem property, income, sales, use and business taxes, and are payable from these specific future taxes. Tax anticipation notes are usually general obligations of the issuer. General obligations are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest.
- **Revenue Anticipation Notes.** Revenue anticipation notes are issued by state and local governments or governmental bodies with the expectation that receipt of future revenues, such as Federal revenue sharing or state aid payments, will be used to repay the notes. Typically, they also constitute general obligations of the issuer.
- **Bond Anticipation Notes.** Bond anticipation notes are issued to provide interim financing for state and local governments until long-term financing can be arranged. In most cases, the long-term bonds then provide the money for the repayment of the notes.
- **Tax-Exempt Commercial Paper.** Tax-exempt commercial paper is a short-term obligation with a stated maturity of 365 days or less. It is issued and backed by agencies of state and local governments to finance seasonal working capital needs or as short-term financing in anticipation of longer-term financing.

**VARIABLE RATE DEMAND OBLIGATIONS.** Variable rate obligations have a yield that is adjusted periodically based upon changes in the level of prevailing interest rates. Such adjustments are generally made on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Variable rate obligations may lessen the capital fluctuations usually inherent in fixed income investments.

Unlike securities with fixed rate coupons, variable rate instrument coupons are not fixed for the full term of the instrument. Rather, they are adjusted periodically based upon changes in prevailing interest rates. The more frequently such instruments are adjusted, the less such instruments are affected by interest rate changes. The value of a variable rate instrument, however, may fluctuate in response to market factors and changes in the creditworthiness of the issuer. By investing in variable rate obligations, the funds seek to take advantage of the normal yield curve pattern that usually results in higher yields on longer-term investments. This policy also means that should interest rates decline, the fund's yield will decline and the fund and its shareholders will forego the opportunity for capital appreciation of the fund's investments and of their shares to the extent a portfolio is invested in variable rate obligations. Should interest rates increase, the fund's yield will increase and the fund and its shareholders will be subject to lessened risks of capital depreciation of its portfolio investments and of their shares to the extent a portfolio is invested in variable rate obligations. There is no limitation on the percentage of the fund's assets which may be invested in variable rate obligations. For purposes of determining the fund's weighted average portfolio maturity, the term of a variable rate obligation is defined as the longer of the length of time until the next rate adjustment or the time of demand.

Floating rate demand notes have an interest rate fixed to a known lending rate (such as the prime rate) and are automatically adjusted when the known rate changes. Variable rate demand notes have an interest rate that is adjusted at specified intervals to a known rate. Demand notes provide that the holder may demand payment of the note at its par value plus accrued interest by giving notice to the issuer. To ensure that ability of the issuer to make payment upon such demand, the note may be supported by an unconditional bank letter of credit.

The trustees have approved investments in floating and variable rate demand notes upon the following conditions: the fund has an unconditional right of demand, upon notice to exceed thirty days, against the issuer to receive payment; the Adviser determines the financial condition of the issuer and continues to monitor it in order to be satisfied that the issuer will be able to make payment upon such demand, either from its own resources or through an unqualified commitment from a third party; and the rate of interest payable is calculated to ensure that the market value of such notes will approximate par value on the adjustment dates.

**OBLIGATIONS WITH TERM PUTS ATTACHED.** The fund may purchase municipal securities together with the right that it may resell the securities to the seller at an agreed-upon price or yield within a specified period prior to the maturity date of the securities. Although it is not a put option in the usual sense, such a right to resell is commonly known as a "put." The fund may purchase obligations with puts attached from banks and broker-dealers.

The price the fund expects to pay for municipal securities with puts generally is higher than the price which otherwise would be paid for the municipal securities alone. The fund will use puts for liquidity purposes in order to permit it to remain more fully invested in municipal securities than would otherwise be the case by providing a ready market for certain municipal securities in its portfolio at an acceptable price. The put generally is for a shorter term than the maturity of the municipal security and does not restrict in any way the fund's ability to dispose of (or retain) the municipal security.

In order to ensure that the interest on municipal securities subject to puts is tax-exempt to the fund, it will limit its use of puts in accordance with applicable interpretations and rulings of the Internal Revenue Service.

Since it is difficult to evaluate the likelihood of exercise of the potential benefit of a put, it is expected that puts will be determined to have a “value” of zero, regardless of whether any direct or indirect consideration was paid. Accordingly, puts as separate securities are expected not to affect the calculation of the weighted average portfolio maturity. Where a fund has paid for a put, the cost will be reflected as unrealized depreciation in the underlying security for the period during which the commitment is held, and therefore would reduce any potential gain on the sale of the underlying security by the cost of the put. There is a risk that the seller of the put may not be able to repurchase the security upon exercise of the put by the fund. To minimize such risks, the fund will only purchase obligations with puts attached from sellers whom the Adviser believes to be creditworthy.

### ***U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES ULTRA-SHORT BOND FUND***

The U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund invests in United States Treasury debt securities and obligations of agencies and instrumentalities of the United States, including repurchase agreements collateralized with such securities. The fund invests in various United States government agencies, which, while chartered or sponsored by acts of Congress, are neither issued nor guaranteed by the United States Treasury. Each of these agencies, which include the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Farm Credit Bank and the Tennessee Valley Authority, is supported by its own credit. The Federal Home Loan Bank is also supported by the ability of the United States Treasury to buy up to \$4 billion of debt of the agency. In addition, the Tennessee Valley Authority has a credit line of \$150 million with the United States Treasury.

### **COMMON INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS**

The following investment strategies apply to the Global Luxury Goods Fund, Gold and Precious Metals Fund, World Precious Minerals Fund, Global Resources Fund (collectively, the “Equity Funds”), Near-Term Tax Free Fund and U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund.

**RECENT MARKET EVENTS RISK.** The COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to contain its spread have negatively affected, and are likely to continue to negatively affect, the global economy, the economies of the United States and other individual countries, and the financial performance of individual issuers, sectors, industries, asset classes, and markets in significant and unforeseen ways. The pandemic has resulted in significant market volatility, exchange trading suspensions and closures, declines in global financial markets, higher default rates, and economic downturns and recessions, and these effects may continue for an extended period of time and may increase in severity over time. In addition, actions taken by government and quasi-governmental authorities and regulators throughout the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including significant fiscal and monetary policy changes, may affect the value, volatility, and liquidity of some securities and other assets. Given the significant uncertainty surrounding the magnitude, duration, reach, costs and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as actions that have been or could be taken by governmental authorities or other third parties, it is difficult to predict its potential impacts on a Fund's investments. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic also are likely to exacerbate other risks that apply to a Fund, including the risks disclosed in this SAI, which could negatively impact the Fund's performance and lead to losses on your investment in the Fund. While the extreme volatility and disruption that U.S. and global markets experienced for an extended period of time beginning in 2007 and 2008 had, until the coronavirus outbreak, generally subsided, uncertainty and periods of volatility still remain. Federal Reserve policy, including with respect to certain interest rates, may adversely affect the value, volatility and liquidity of dividend and interest paying securities. Market volatility, dramatic changes to interest rates and/or a return to unfavorable economic conditions may lower a Fund's performance or impair a Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective. In addition, policy and legislative changes in the U.S. and in other countries are changing many aspects of financial regulation. The impact of these changes on the markets, and the practical implications for market participants, may not be fully known for some time. Widespread disease and virus epidemics, such as the coronavirus outbreak, could likewise be highly disruptive, adversely affecting industries, markets, currencies, interest and inflation rates, credit ratings, investor sentiment, and other factors affecting the value of a Fund's investments.

**MARKET RISK.** Investments in equity and debt securities are subject to inherent market risks and fluctuations in value due to earnings, economic conditions, quality ratings and other factors beyond the Adviser's control. Therefore, the return and net asset value of the funds will fluctuate.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES.** The equity funds may invest in foreign securities. Investing in securities issued by companies whose principal business activities are outside the United States may involve significant risks not present in domestic investments. For example, there is generally less publicly available information about foreign companies, particularly those not subject to the disclosure and reporting requirements of the United States securities laws. Foreign issuers are generally not bound by uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting requirements and standards of practice comparable to those applicable to domestic issuers. Investments in foreign securities also involve the risk of possible adverse changes in investment or exchange control regulations, expropriation or confiscatory taxation,

limitation of the removal of funds or other assets of the fund, political or financial instability or diplomatic and other developments that could affect such investment. In addition, economies of particular countries or areas of the world may differ favorably or unfavorably from the economy of the United States. It is anticipated that in most cases the best available market for foreign securities will be on exchanges or in over-the-counter markets located outside of the United States. Foreign stock markets, while growing in volume and sophistication, are generally not as developed as those in the United States are, and securities of some foreign issuers (particularly those in developing countries) may be less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable United States companies. In addition, foreign brokerage commissions are generally higher than commissions on securities traded in the United States and may be non-negotiable. In general, there is less overall governmental supervision and regulation of foreign securities markets, broker/dealers and issuers than in the United States.

**AMERICAN DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS (ADRs) AND GLOBAL DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS (GDRs).** ADRs are depository receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company that evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. GDRs are typically issued by foreign banks or trust companies, although they also may be issued by U.S. banks or trust companies, and evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by either a foreign or a United States corporation. Generally, depository receipts in registered form are designed for use in the U.S. securities market, and depository receipts in bearer form are designed for use in securities markets outside the United States. Depository receipts may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the underlying securities into which they may be converted. In addition, the issuers of the securities underlying unsponsored depository receipts are not obligated to disclose material information in the United States; and, therefore, there may be less information available regarding such issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depository receipts. For purposes of a fund's investment policies, all equity funds investments in depository receipts except for the Global Luxury Goods Fund, will be deemed investments in the underlying securities (*i.e.*, investments in foreign issuers). The Global Luxury Goods Fund's investment in depository receipts will not be treated as an investment in a foreign issuer.

**EMERGING MARKETS.** The equity funds may invest in countries considered by the Adviser to represent emerging markets. The Adviser determines which countries are emerging market countries by considering various factors, including development of securities laws and market regulation, total number of issuers, total market capitalization, and perceptions of the investment community. Generally, emerging markets are those other than North America, Western Europe and Japan.

Investing in emerging markets involves risks and special considerations not typically associated with investing in other more established economies or securities markets. Investors should carefully consider their ability to assume the below listed risks before making an investment in a fund. Investing in emerging markets is considered speculative and involves the risk of total loss of investment.

Risks of investing in emerging markets include:

1. The risk that a fund's assets may be exposed to nationalization, expropriation or confiscatory taxation.
2. The fact that emerging market securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than the securities markets of more developed nations. The relatively small market capitalization and trading volume of emerging market securities may cause the fund's investments to be comparatively less liquid and subject to greater price volatility than investments in the securities markets of developed nations. Many emerging markets are in their infancy and have yet to be exposed to a major correction. In the event of such an occurrence, the absence of various market mechanisms that are inherent in the markets of more developed nations may lead to turmoil in the market place, as well as the inability of the fund to liquidate its investments.
3. Greater social, economic and political uncertainty (including the risk of war).
4. Greater price volatility, substantially less liquidity and significantly smaller market capitalization of securities markets.
5. Currency exchange rate fluctuations and the lack of available currency hedging instruments.
6. Higher rates of inflation.
7. Controls on foreign investment and limitations on repatriation of invested capital and on a fund's ability to exchange local currencies for U.S. dollars.
8. Greater governmental involvement in and control over the economy.
9. The fact that emerging market companies may be smaller, less seasoned, and newly organized.
10. The difference in, or lack of, auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers.

11. The fact that the securities of many companies may trade at prices substantially above book value, at high price/earnings ratios, or at prices that do not reflect traditional measures of value.
12. The fact that statistical information regarding the economy of many emerging market countries may be inaccurate or not comparable to statistical information regarding the United States or other economies.
13. Less extensive regulation of the securities markets.
14. Certain considerations, such as currency fluctuations, less public disclosure and economic and political risk, regarding the maintenance of fund portfolio securities and cash with foreign sub-custodians and securities depositories.
15. The risk that it may be more difficult, or impossible, to obtain and/or enforce a judgment than in other countries.
16. The risk that a fund may be subject to income or withholding taxes imposed by emerging market countries or other foreign governments. The funds intend to elect for federal income tax purposes, when eligible, to “pass through” to the funds’ shareholders the amount of foreign income tax and similar taxes paid by a fund. The foreign taxes passed through to a shareholder would be included in the shareholder’s income and may be claimed as a deduction or credit on their federal income tax return. Other taxes, such as transfer taxes, may be imposed on a fund, but would not give rise to a credit or be eligible to be passed through to the shareholders.
17. The fact that a fund also is permitted to engage in foreign currency hedging transactions and to enter into stock options on stock index futures transactions, each of which may involve special risks, although these strategies cannot at the present time be used to a significant extent by a fund in the markets in which the fund will principally invest.
18. Enterprises in which a fund invests may be or become subject to unduly burdensome and restrictive regulation affecting the commercial freedom of the invested company and thereby diminishing the value of a fund’s investment in it. Restrictive or over-regulation may be, therefore, a form of indirect nationalization.
19. Investments in equity securities are subject to inherent market risks and fluctuations in value due to earnings, economic conditions, quality ratings and other factors beyond the control of the Adviser. As a result, the return and net asset value of the funds will fluctuate.
20. The Adviser may engage in hedging transactions in an attempt to hedge a fund’s foreign securities investments back to the U.S. dollar when, in its judgment, currency movements affecting particular investments are likely to harm the performance of a fund. Possible losses from changes in currency exchange rates are primarily a risk of unhedged investing in foreign securities. While a security may perform well in a foreign market, if the local currency declines against the U.S. dollar, gains from the investment can disappear or become losses. Typically, currency fluctuations are more extreme than stock market fluctuations. Accordingly, the strength or weakness of the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies may account for part of a fund’s performance even when the Adviser attempts to minimize currency risk through hedging activities. While currency hedging may reduce portfolio volatility, there are costs associated with such hedging, including the loss of potential profits, losses on hedging transactions, and increased transaction expenses.

**REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS.** The funds may invest a portion of their assets in repurchase agreements with United States broker-dealers, banks and other financial institutions, provided the funds’ custodian always has possession of securities serving as collateral or has evidence of book entry receipt of such securities. In a repurchase agreement, a fund purchases securities subject to the seller’s agreement to repurchase such securities at a specified time (normally one day) and price. The repurchase price reflects an agreed upon interest rate during the time of investment. All repurchase agreements must be collateralized with securities (typically United States government or government agency securities), the market values of which equal or exceed 102% of the principal amount of the repurchase obligation. If an institution enters an insolvency proceeding, the resulting delay in liquidation of securities serving as collateral could cause a fund some loss if the value of the securities declined before liquidation. To reduce the risk of loss, funds will enter into repurchase agreements only with institutions and dealers the Adviser considers creditworthy.

**SECURITIES LENDING.** Each fund may lend its portfolio securities to qualified securities dealers or other institutional investors. Currently, it is not the intention of any fund to lend securities. When lending securities, a fund will receive cash or high-quality securities as collateral for the loan. Each fund may invest cash collateral in repurchase agreements, including repurchase agreements collateralized with non-governmental securities. Under the terms of the funds’ current securities lending agreements, the funds’ lending agent has guaranteed performance of the obligation of each borrower and each counterparty to each repurchase agreement in which cash collateral is invested.

A failure by a borrower to return the loaned securities when due could result in a loss to the fund if the value of the collateral is less than the value of the loaned securities at the time of the default. In addition, a fund could incur liability to the borrower if the value of any securities purchased with cash collateral decreases during the term of the loan.

**BORROWING.** The funds may have to deal with unpredictable cash flows as shareholders purchase and redeem shares. Under adverse conditions, the funds might have to sell portfolio securities to raise cash to pay for redemptions at a time when investment considerations would not favor such sales. In addition, frequent purchases and sales of portfolio securities tend to decrease fund performance by increasing transaction expenses.

Each fund may borrow money to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act. As a nonfundamental policy, a fund may borrow money for temporary or emergency purposes (not for leveraging or investment) in an amount not exceeding 33-1/3% of a fund's total assets (including the amount borrowed) less liabilities (other than borrowing). Through such borrowings, these funds may avoid selling portfolio securities to raise cash to pay for redemptions at a time when investment considerations would not favor such sales. In addition, the funds' performance may be improved due to a decrease in the number of portfolio transactions. After borrowing money, if subsequent shareholder purchases do not provide sufficient cash to repay the borrowed monies, a fund will liquidate portfolio securities in an orderly manner to repay the borrowed monies.

To the extent that a fund borrows money before selling securities, the fund would be leveraged such that the fund's net assets may appreciate or depreciate more than an unleveraged portfolio of similar securities. Since substantially all of a fund's assets will fluctuate in value and whereas the interest obligations on borrowings may be fixed, the net asset value per share of the fund will increase more when the fund's portfolio assets increase in value and decrease more when the fund's portfolio assets decrease in value than would otherwise be the case. Moreover, interest costs on borrowings may fluctuate with changing market rates of interest and may partially offset or exceed the returns that the funds earn on portfolio securities. Under adverse conditions, the funds might be forced to sell portfolio securities to meet interest or principal payments at a time when market conditions would not be conducive to favorable selling prices for the securities.

**LOWER-RATED SECURITIES.** The equity funds may invest in lower-rated debt securities (commonly called "junk bonds"), which may be subject to certain risk factors to which other securities are not subject to the same degree. An economic downturn tends to disrupt the market for lower-rated bonds and adversely affect their values. Such an economic downturn may be expected to result in increased price volatility of lower-rated bonds and of the value of a fund's shares, and an increase in issuers' defaults on such bonds.

In addition, many issuers of lower-rated bonds are substantially leveraged, which may impair their ability to meet their obligations. In some cases, the securities in which a fund invests are subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness, thus potentially limiting the fund's ability to recover full principal or to receive payments when senior securities are in default.

The credit rating of a security does not necessarily address its market value risk. In addition, ratings may, from time to time, be changed to reflect developments in the issuer's financial condition. Lower-rated securities held by a fund have speculative characteristics that are apt to increase in number and significance with each lower rating category.

When the secondary market for lower-rated bonds becomes increasingly illiquid, or in the absence of readily available market quotations for lower-rated bonds, the relative lack of reliable, objective data makes the responsibility of the Trustees to value such securities more difficult, and judgment plays a greater role in the valuation of portfolio securities.

Also, increased illiquidity of the market for lower-rated bonds may affect a fund's ability to dispose of portfolio securities at a desirable price.

In addition, if a fund experiences unexpected net redemptions, it could be forced to sell all or some of its lower-rated bonds without regard to their investment merits, thereby decreasing the asset base upon which the fund's expenses can be spread and possibly reducing the fund's rate of return. Prices of lower-rated bonds have been found to be less sensitive to interest rate changes and more sensitive to adverse economic changes and individual corporate developments than more highly rated investments. Certain laws or regulations may have a material effect on the fund's investments in lower-rated bonds.

**CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES.** The equity funds may invest in convertible securities, that is, bonds, notes, debentures, preferred stocks and other securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for another security, usually common stock, or commodity. Convertible debt securities and convertible preferred stocks, until converted, have general characteristics similar to both debt and equity securities. Although to a lesser extent than with debt securities generally, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion or exchange feature, the market value of convertible securities typically increases or declines as the market value of the underlying common stock increases or declines, although usually not to the same extent. Convertible securities generally offer lower yields than non-convertible fixed income securities of similar quality because of their conversion or exchange features. Convertible bonds and convertible preferred stock typically have lower

credit ratings than similar non-convertible securities because they are generally subordinated to other similar but non-convertible fixed income securities of the same issuer.

**RESTRICTED SECURITIES.** From time to time, the equity funds may purchase securities that are subject to restrictions on resale. While such purchases may be made at an advantageous price and offer attractive opportunities for investment not otherwise available on the open market, a fund may not have the same freedom to dispose of such securities as in the case of the purchase of securities in the open market or in a public distribution. These securities may often be resold in a liquid dealer or institutional trading market, but the fund may experience delays in its attempts to dispose of such securities. If adverse market conditions develop, the fund may not be able to obtain as favorable a price as that prevailing at the time the decision is made to sell. In any case, where a thin market exists for a particular security, public knowledge of a proposed sale of a large block may depress the market price of such securities.

Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act requires, among other things, that the Fund establish a liquidity risk management program ("LRMP") that is reasonably designed to assess and manage liquidity risk. Rule 22e-4 defines "liquidity risk" as the risk that a fund could not meet requests to redeem shares issued by the fund without significant dilution of the remaining investors' interests in the fund. The Fund has implemented a LRMP to meet the relevant requirements. Additionally, the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, approved the designation of the Fund's LRMP administrator to administer such program and will review no less frequently than annually a written report prepared by the LRMP administrator that addresses the operation of the LRMP and assesses its adequacy and effectiveness of implementation. Among other things, the LRMP provides for the classification of each Fund investment as a "highly liquid investment," "moderately liquid investment," "less liquid investment" or "illiquid investment." The liquidity risk classifications of the Fund's investments are determined after reasonable inquiry and taking into account relevant market, trading and investment-specific considerations. To the extent that a Fund investment is deemed to be an "illiquid investment" or a "less liquid investment," the Fund can expect to be exposed to greater illiquidity risk.

**DERIVATIVE SECURITIES.** The equity funds may purchase derivative securities. Derivative securities may be used to attempt (1) to protect against possible changes in the market value of securities held in or to be purchased for a fund's portfolio resulting from securities markets or currency exchange rate fluctuations, (2) to protect a fund's unrealized gains in the value of its portfolio securities, (3) to facilitate the sale of such securities for investment purposes, (4) to manage the effective maturity or duration of a fund's portfolio, or (5) to establish a position in the derivatives markets as a temporary substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities. The equity funds' ability to successfully use derivative securities will depend upon the Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements, which cannot be assured. Investing in derivative securities will increase transaction expenses and may result in a loss that exceeds the principal invested in the transactions.

Derivative securities have risk associated with them including possible default by the other party to the transaction, illiquidity and, to the extent the Adviser's view as to certain market movements is incorrect, the risk that the use of such derivative securities could result in losses greater than if they had not been used. Use of put and call options may result in losses to a fund. For example, selling call options may force the sale of portfolio securities at inopportune times or for lower prices than current market values. Selling call options may also limit the amount of appreciation a fund can realize on its investments or cause a fund to hold a security it might otherwise sell. The use of currency transactions can result in a fund incurring losses as a result of a number of factors including the imposition of exchange controls, suspension of settlements, or the inability to deliver or receive a specified currency. The use of options and futures transactions entails certain other risks. In particular, the variable degree of correlation between price movements of futures contracts and price movements in the related portfolio position of a fund creates the possibility that losses on the hedging instrument may be greater than gains in the value of a fund's position. In addition, futures and options markets may not be liquid in all circumstances and certain over-the-counter options may have no markets. As a result, in certain markets, a fund might not be able to close out a transaction, and substantial losses might be incurred. However, the use of futures and options transactions for hedging should tend to minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of a hedged position. At the same time, they tend to limit any potential gain that might result from an increase in value of such position. Finally, the daily variation margin requirement for futures contracts would create a greater ongoing potential financial risk than would purchases of options, where the exposure is limited to the cost of the initial premium. Losses resulting from the use of derivative securities would reduce net asset value, and possibly income, and such losses can be greater than if the derivative securities had not been used.

The funds' activities involving derivative securities may be limited by the requirements of Subchapter M of the Code for qualification as a regulated investment company.

**OPTIONS.** All equity funds may purchase and sell options. A fund will not purchase any option if, immediately thereafter, the aggregate market value of all outstanding options purchased by that fund would exceed 10% of that fund's total assets.

A put option gives the purchaser of the option, upon payment of a premium, the right to sell, and the issuer of the option the obligation to buy the underlying security, commodity, index, currency or other instrument at the exercise price. For instance, a fund's purchase of a put

option on a security might be designed to protect its holdings in the underlying instrument (or, in some cases, a similar instrument) against a substantial decline in the market value by giving a fund the right to sell such instrument at the option exercise price. A call option, upon payment of a premium, gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the issuer the obligation to sell, the underlying instrument at the exercise price. A fund's purchase of a call option on a security, financial future, index currency or other instrument might be intended to protect a fund against an increase in the price of the underlying instrument that it intends to purchase in the future by fixing the price at which it may purchase such instrument. An "American style" put or call option may be exercised at any time during the option period while a "European style" put or call option may be exercised only upon expiration or during a fixed period prior thereto.

Exchange-listed options are issued by a regulated intermediary such as the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC), which guarantees the performance of the obligations of the parties to such options. Over-the-counter (OTC) options are purchased from or sold to securities dealers, financial institutions or other parties (Counterparty(ies)) through direct bilateral agreement with the Counterparty. In contrast to exchange-listed options, which generally have standardized terms and performance mechanics, all the terms of an OTC option are set by negotiation of the parties. Unless the parties provide for it, there is no central clearing or guaranty function in an OTC option.

The funds' ability to close out their position as a purchaser or seller of a put or call option is dependent, in part, upon the liquidity of the market for that particular option. Exchange-listed options, because they are standardized and not subject to Counterparty credit risk, are generally more liquid than OTC options. There can be no guarantee that a fund will be able to close out an option position, whether in exchange-listed options or OTC options, when desired. An inability to close out its options positions may reduce a fund's anticipated profits or increase its losses.

If the Counterparty to an OTC option fails to make or take delivery of the security, currency or other instrument underlying an OTC option it has entered into with a fund, or fails to make a cash settlement payment due in accordance with the terms of that option, a fund may lose any premium it paid for the option as well as any anticipated benefit of the transaction. Accordingly, the Adviser must assess the creditworthiness of each such Counterparty or any guarantor or credit enhancement of the Counterparty's credit to determine the likelihood that the terms of the OTC option will be satisfied.

The funds will realize a loss equal to all or a part of the premium paid for an option if the price of the underlying security, commodity, index, currency or other instrument security decreases or does not increase by more than the premium (in the case of a call option), or if the price of the underlying security, commodity, index, currency or other instrument increases or does not decrease by more than the premium (in the case of a put option).

**WRITING OPTIONS ON SECURITIES.** The equity funds may write "covered" put and call options. The funds may also enter into transactions to close out an investment in any put or call options. If a fund writes (*i.e.*, sells) a call option, the premium received may serve as a partial hedge, to the extent of the option premium, against a decrease in the value of the underlying securities or instruments in a portfolio, or may increase the fund's income. If a fund sells (*i.e.*, issues) a put option, the premium that it receives may serve to reduce the cost of purchasing the underlying security, to the extent of the option premium, or may increase a fund's capital gains. All options sold by a fund must be "covered" (*e.g.*, the fund must be long when selling a call option). The securities or futures contract subject to the calls or puts must meet the asset segregation requirements described below as long as the option is outstanding. Even though a fund will receive the option premium to help protect it against loss or reduce its cost basis, an option sold by a fund exposes the fund during the term of the option to possible loss. When selling a call, a fund is exposed to the loss of opportunity to realize appreciation in the market price of the underlying security or instrument, and the transaction may require the fund to hold a security or instrument that it might otherwise have sold. When selling a put, a fund is exposed to the possibility of being required to pay greater than current market value to purchase the underlying security. The funds will not write any call or put options if, immediately afterwards, the aggregate value of a fund's securities subject to outstanding "covered" call or put options would exceed 50% of the value of the fund's total assets.

**WARRANTS.** The equity funds may invest in warrants to gain exposure to individual securities in a specific industry over the long term. Warrants allow the funds to imitate a purchase or sale of a stock for a fraction of its price (premium) and hold that option for a long period of time before it expires. The funds may also receive warrants when they participate in a private placement. The issuer of the private placement may provide a warrant as an incentive for investing in the initial financing of the company.

Warrants are different from options in that they are issued by a company as opposed to a broker and typically have a longer life than an option. When the underlying stock goes above the exercise price of the warrant the warrant is "in the money." If the exercise price of the warrant is above the value of the underlying stock it is "out of the money." "Out of the money" warrants tend to have different price behaviors than "in the money" warrants. As an example, the value of an "out of the money" warrant with a long time to expiration generally declines less than a drop in the underlying stock price because the warrant's value is primarily derived from the time component.

Most warrants are exchange-traded. The holder of a warrant has the right, until the warrant expires, to sell an exchange-traded warrant or to purchase a given number of shares of a particular issue at a specified price. Such investments can provide a greater potential for profit or

loss than an equivalent investment in the underlying security. Prices of warrants do not necessarily move, however, in tandem with prices of the underlying securities particularly for shorter periods of time, and, therefore, may be considered speculative investments. The key driver to the movements in warrants are the fundamentals of the underlying company. Warrants, unlike options, may allow the holder to vote on certain issues and often are issued with certain anti-dilutive rights. Warrants pay no dividends. If a warrant held by a fund were not exercised by the date of its expiration, the fund would incur a loss in the amount of the cost of the warrant

**FUTURES CONTRACTS.** The equity funds may enter into financial futures contracts or purchase or sell put and call options on such futures as a hedge against anticipated interest rate, currency or equity market changes, for duration management and for risk management purposes. Futures are generally bought and sold on the commodities exchange where they are listed with payment of an initial variation margin as described below. The sale of a futures contract creates a firm obligation by a fund, as seller, to deliver to the buyer the specific type of financial instrument called for in the contract at a specific future time for a specified price (or, with respect to index futures and Eurodollar instruments, the net cash amount). Options on futures contracts are similar to options on securities except that an option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right in return for the premium paid to assume a position in a futures contract and obligates the seller to deliver such position.

The use by the funds of financial futures and options thereon will in all cases be consistent with applicable regulatory requirements and in particular the rules and regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“the CFTC”) and will be entered into only for bona fide hedging, risk management (including duration management) or other portfolio management purposes. Typically, maintaining a futures contract or selling an option thereon requires a fund to deposit with a financial intermediary as security for its obligations an amount of cash or other specified assets (initial margin) that initially is typically 1% to 10% of the face amount of the contract (but may be higher in some circumstances). Additional cash or assets (variation margin) may be required to be deposited thereafter on a daily basis as the marked-to-market value of the contract fluctuates. The purchase of an option on financial futures involves payment of a premium for the option without any further obligation on the part of the purchaser. If a fund exercises an option on a futures contract, it will be obligated to post initial margin (and potentially subsequent variation margin) for the resulting futures position just as it would for any futures position. Futures contracts and options thereon are generally settled by entering into an offsetting transaction, but there can be no assurance that the position can be offset, before settlement, at an advantageous price, nor that delivery will occur.

A fund will not enter into a futures contract or related option (except for closing transactions) if, immediately afterwards, the sum of the amount of its initial margin and premiums on open futures contracts and options thereon would exceed 5% of the fund’s total assets (taken at current value). However, in the case of an option that is in the money at the time of the purchase, the in-the-money amount may be excluded in calculating the 5% limitation. The segregation requirements with respect to futures contracts and options thereon are described below.

Each of the Global Luxury Goods Fund, Gold and Precious Metals Fund, World Precious Minerals Fund and Global Resources Fund has claimed an exclusion from the definition of “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under that Act. Accordingly, each fund is limited in its ability to use futures and options on futures or commodities or engage in swap transactions. If a fund were no longer able to claim the exclusion, the Adviser would be required to register as a “commodity pool operator,” and the fund and the Adviser would be subject to regulation under the Commodity Exchange Act.

The Near-Term Tax Free Fund and U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund do not trade any commodity interests, such as futures contracts, options on futures contracts, non-deliverable forwards, swaps and cash-settled foreign currency contracts. Therefore, the Adviser does not need to, and does not, rely on the exclusion from the definition of “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act in order to avoid regulation as a CPO with respect to those funds.

**CFTC REGULATION 4.5.** Historically, an adviser of a fund trading commodity interests (such as futures contracts, options on futures contracts, non-deliverable forwards, swaps and cash-settled foreign currency contracts) has been excluded from regulation as a commodity pool operator (“CPO”) pursuant to CFTC Regulation 4.5. In 2012, the CFTC amended Regulation 4.5 to dramatically narrow this exclusion.

Under the amended Regulation 4.5 exclusion, a fund’s commodity interests - other than those used for bona fide hedging purposes (as defined by the CFTC) - must be limited such that the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish the positions (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions and excluding the amount by which options are “in-the-money” at the time of purchase) does not exceed 5% of a fund’s NAV, or alternatively, the aggregate net notional value of the positions, determined at the time the most recent position was established, does not exceed 100% of a fund’s NAV (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). Further, to qualify for the exclusion in amended Regulation 4.5, a fund must satisfy a marketing test, which requires, among other things, that a fund not hold itself out as a vehicle for trading commodity interests.

The Adviser intends to comply with one of the two alternative limitations described above with respect to a Fund and claim an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”) with respect to a Fund. A Fund therefore will not be subject to registration or regulation as a CPO under the CEA. Complying with the limitations may restrict the Adviser’s ability to use derivatives as part of a Fund’s investment strategies. Although the Adviser expects to be able to execute a Fund’s strategies within the limitations, performance could be adversely affected.

**FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS.** The equity funds may engage in currency transactions with counterparties in an attempt to hedge an investment in an issuer incorporated or operating in a foreign country or in a security denominated in the currency of a foreign country against a devaluation of that country’s currency. Currency transactions include forward currency contracts, exchange-listed currency futures, and exchange-listed and OTC options on currencies. A fund’s dealing in forward currency contracts and other currency transactions such as futures, options, and options on futures generally will be limited to hedging involving either specific transactions or portfolio positions. Transaction hedging is entering into a currency transaction with respect to specific assets or liabilities of a fund, which will generally arise in connection with the purchase or sale of its portfolio securities or the receipt of income therefrom. Position hedging is entering into a currency transaction with respect to portfolio security positions denominated or generally quoted in that currency.

A fund may cross-hedge currencies by entering into transactions to purchase or sell one or more currencies that are expected to decline in value relative to other currencies in which a fund has (or expects to have) portfolio exposure.

To reduce the effect of currency fluctuations on the value of existing or anticipated holdings or portfolio securities, the equity funds may engage in proxy hedging. Proxy hedging may be used when the currency to which a fund’s portfolio is exposed is difficult to hedge. Proxy hedging entails entering into a forward contract to sell a currency whose changes in value are generally considered to be linked to a currency in which some or all of a fund’s portfolio securities are, or are expected to be denominated, and to buy U.S. dollars.

To hedge against a devaluation of a foreign currency, a fund may enter into a forward market contract to sell to banks a set amount of such currency at a fixed price and at a fixed time in the future. If, in foreign currency transactions, the foreign currency sold forward by a fund is devalued below the price of the forward market contract and more than any devaluation of the U.S. dollar during the period of the contract, a fund will realize a gain as a result of the currency transaction. In this way, a fund might reduce the impact of any decline in the market value of its foreign investments attributable to devaluation of foreign currencies. A fund may sell foreign currency forward only as a means of protecting their foreign investments or to hedge in connection with the purchase and sale of foreign securities, and may not otherwise trade in the currencies of foreign countries. Accordingly, a fund may not sell forward the currency of a particular country to an extent greater than the aggregate market value (at the time of making such sale) of the securities held in its portfolio denominated in that particular foreign currency (or issued by companies incorporated or operating in that particular foreign country) plus an amount equal to the value of securities it anticipates purchasing less the value of securities it anticipates selling, denominated in that particular currency.

As a result of hedging through selling foreign currencies forward, in the event of a devaluation, it is possible that the value of a fund’s portfolio would not depreciate as much as the portfolio of a fund holding similar investments that did not sell foreign currencies forward. Even so, the forward market contract is not a perfect hedge against devaluation because the value of a fund’s portfolio securities may decrease more than the amount realized by reason of the foreign currency transaction. To the extent that a fund sells forward currencies that are thereafter revalued upward, the value of that fund’s portfolio would appreciate to a lesser extent than the comparable portfolio of a fund that did not sell those foreign currencies forward. If, in anticipation of a devaluation of a foreign currency, a fund sells the currency forward at a price lower than the price of that currency on the expiration date of the contract, that fund will suffer a loss on the contract if the currency is not devalued, during the contract period, below the contract price. Moreover, it will not be possible for a fund to hedge against a devaluation that is so generally anticipated that the fund is not able to contract to sell the currency in the future at a price above the devaluation level it anticipates. It is possible that, under certain circumstances, a fund may have to limit its currency transactions to permit that fund to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. Foreign currency transactions would involve a cost to the funds, which would vary with such factors as the currency involved, the length of the contact period and the market conditions then prevailing. The funds will not attempt to hedge all their foreign investments by selling foreign currencies forward and will do so only to the extent deemed appropriate by the Adviser.

**USE OF SEGREGATED AND OTHER SPECIAL ACCOUNTS.** Many derivative securities, in addition to other requirements, require that the equity funds segregate liquid high grade assets with their custodian to the extent that the fund’s obligations are not otherwise “covered” through ownership of the underlying security, financial instrument or currency. In general, either the full amount of any obligation of a fund to pay or deliver securities or assets must be covered at all times by the securities, instruments or currency required to be delivered, or subject to any regulatory restrictions, an amount of cash or liquid high grade debt securities at least equal to the current amount of the obligation must either be identified as being restricted in a fund’s accounting records or physically segregated in a separate account at that fund’s custodian. The segregated assets cannot be sold or transferred unless equivalent assets are substituted in their place or it is no longer necessary to segregate them. For the purpose of determining the adequacy of the liquid securities that have been restricted, the securities will be valued at market or fair value. If the market or fair value of such securities declines, additional cash

or liquid securities will be restricted on a daily basis so that the value of the restricted cash or liquid securities, when added to the amount deposited with the broker as margin, equals the amount of such commitments by a fund.

**PARTICIPATORY NOTES.** These are derivative securities that are linked to the performance of an underlying foreign security. This type of investment allows a fund to have market exposure to foreign securities without trading directly in the local market. The purchaser of a participatory note must rely on the creditworthiness of the bank or broker-dealer who issues the participatory note, and these notes do not have the same rights as a shareholder of the underlying foreign security.

**TEMPORARY DEFENSIVE INVESTMENTS.** For temporary defensive purposes during periods that, in the Adviser's opinion, present the funds with adverse changes in the economic, political or securities markets, the funds may seek to protect the capital value of its assets by temporarily investing up to 100% of its assets in: U.S. Government securities, short-term indebtedness, equity and equity-related securities, including short and long term call or put options, money market instruments, or other investment grade cash equivalents, each denominated in U.S. dollars or any other freely convertible currency; or repurchase agreements. When a fund is in a defensive investment position, it may not achieve its investment objective.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.** U.S. Government obligations include securities, which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Treasury, by various agencies of the United States Government, and by various instrumentalities, which have been established or sponsored by the United States Government. U.S. Treasury obligations are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. Government. U.S. Treasury obligations include Treasury bills, Treasury notes, and Treasury bonds.

Agencies or instrumentalities established by the U.S. Government include the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Land Bank, the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Student Loan Marketing Association. Also included is the Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Farm Credit Bank, the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, the Resolution Funding Corporation, the Financing Corporation of America and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Some of these securities are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States Government while others are supported only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality, which may include the right of the issuer to borrow from the United States Treasury. Securities issued by such agencies or instrumentalities are neither insured nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The funds and their service providers may be subject to operational and information security risks resulting from cyber security breaches. Cyber security breaches may result from deliberate cyber attacks, although unintentional events may have effects similar to those caused by cyber attacks. Cyber attacks may include the stealing or corrupting of data maintained online or digitally, denial-of-service attacks on fund websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information or other operational disruption. Successful cyber attacks against, or security breaches of, a fund or the Adviser, the distributor, custodian, the transfer agent, selling agents and/or other third-party service providers may adversely impact the fund or its shareholders. Similar types of cyber security risks are also present for issuers of securities or other instruments in which the funds invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the funds' investment therein to lose value.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RISK.** The use and development of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies is rapidly increasing and may be used by issuers in which the Fund invest as well as by service providers that provide services to the Funds. AI technologies are highly reliant on the collection and analysis of large amounts of data and complex algorithms, and it is possible that the information generated from AI technologies could be incomplete, inaccurate or biased, which could lead to adverse effects for the issuers or service providers using such technology. Because of these challenges, the use of AI could result in reputational harm, legal liability, adverse effects on business operations and/or operational errors and investment losses, all of which could impact the Funds. In addition, the increasing development and use of AI technologies could impact the market as a whole, including through use by malicious actors for market manipulation, fraud, and cyberattack. Actual usage of AI technologies by the Funds' service providers and issuers in which the Funds invest will vary. AI technologies and their current and potential future applications, and the regulatory frameworks within which they operate, continue to rapidly evolve, and it is impossible to predict the full extent of future applications or regulations and the associated risks to the Funds.

**LARGE SHAREHOLDER TRANSACTION RISK.** The Fund may experience adverse effects when a large shareholder redeems or purchases large amounts of shares of the Fund. Such redemptions may cause the Fund to sell securities at times when it would not otherwise do so, disrupt the Fund's operations, or borrow money (at a cost to the Fund), which may negatively impact the Fund's performance and liquidity. Similarly, large purchases may adversely affect the Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would. These transactions may also accelerate the realization of taxable income to shareholders if such sales of investments resulted in gains, and may also increase transaction costs.

**MARKET TURBULENCE RISK.** The greatest risk of investing in a mutual fund is that its returns will fluctuate, and you could lose money. Turbulence in the financial sector may result in an unusually high degree of volatility in the financial markets. Both domestic and foreign equity markets have experienced significant volatility and turmoil, with issuers that have exposure to the real estate, mortgage and credit markets particularly affected. It is uncertain whether or for how long these conditions could occur.

Reduced liquidity in credit and fixed-income markets may adversely affect many issuers worldwide. This reduced liquidity may result in less money being available to purchase raw materials, goods and services from emerging markets, which may, in turn, bring down the prices of these economic staples. It may also result in emerging market issuers having more difficulty obtaining financing, which may, in turn, cause a decline in their stock prices. These events and possible market turbulence may have an adverse effect on the Fund.

The financial markets in which the Funds invest are subject to price volatility that could cause losses in a Fund. Market volatility may result from varied predictable and unpredictable factors. The recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus, first detected in December 2019, has resulted in disruptions to the economies of many nations, individual companies and the markets in general, the impact of which cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. The impact of the novel coronavirus, and other such future infectious diseases in certain regions or countries may perform better or worse due to the nature or level of their public health response or due to other factors. Health crises caused by the recent coronavirus outbreak or future infectious diseases may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks in certain countries. The impact of the outbreak may be short term or may last for an extended period of time. This pandemic and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future could result in continued volatility in the financial markets and lead to increased levels of Fund redemptions, which could have a negative impact on the Funds and could adversely affect a Fund's performance, resulting in losses to your investment.

### PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Adviser buys and sells securities for a fund to accomplish the fund's investment objective. A fund's investment policy may lead to frequent changes in investments, particularly in periods of rapidly changing markets. A fund's investments may also be traded to take advantage of perceived short-term disparities in market values. A change in the securities held by a fund is known as "portfolio turnover."

A fund does not intend to use short-term trading as a primary means of achieving its investment objective. However, the fund's rate of portfolio turnover will depend on market and other conditions, and it will not be a limiting factor when portfolio changes are deemed necessary or appropriate by the Adviser. High turnover involves correspondingly greater commission expenses and transaction costs and increases the possibility that a fund would not qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. High turnover may result in a fund recognizing greater amounts of income and capital gains, which would increase the amount of income and capital gains that the fund must distribute to its shareholders in order to maintain its status as a regulated investment company and to avoid the imposition of federal income and excise taxes (see "Federal Income Taxes").

The portfolio turnover rates for the two most recent fiscal years are as follows:

FUND	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,	
	2023	2024
Global Luxury Goods Fund	195%	195%
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	50%	58%
World Precious Minerals Fund	21%	31%
Global Resources Fund	84%	85%
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	14%	53%
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	143%	38%

The reduction in the portfolio turnover rate for the U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund is attributable to the absence of substantial sales in 2024. Only minor transactions were conducted to fulfill redemption requests, without any significant reallocation of assets, resulting in a considerably lower turnover rate compared to the elevated figures recorded in the previous year.

### PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS DISCLOSURE POLICY

Portfolio holdings as of the end of the funds' annual and semi-annual fiscal periods are reported to the SEC on Form N-CSR within 10 days of the mailing of the annual or semi-annual report (typically no later than 70 days after the end of each period). Portfolio holdings as of the end of the first and third fiscal quarters are reported to the SEC on Form N-PORT within 60 days after the end of such period. You may request a copy of the funds' latest annual or semi-annual report to shareholders, when they are available, or a copy of the funds' latest Form N-PORT, when it is available, which contains each fund's portfolio holdings, by contacting the transfer agent at the address or phone number listed on the cover of this SAI. You may also obtain a copy of the funds' latest Form N-CSR and Form N-PORT, when they are available, by accessing the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Each fund's nonpublic portfolio holdings information is received by certain service providers in advance of public release in the course of performing or enabling them to perform the contractual or fiduciary duties necessary for the fund's operations that the fund has retained them to perform so long as the disclosure is subject to duties of confidentiality imposed by law and/ or contract as determined by each fund's officers and, if applicable, the Board. Each fund's portfolio holdings are available in real-time on a daily basis to the Adviser, the Administrator and the Custodian. In addition, the Distributor, the independent auditors, proxy voting services, mailing services, and financial printers and ratings or ranking organizations may have access, but not on a daily real-time basis, to each fund's nonpublic portfolio holdings information on an ongoing basis. The trustees, Trust's officers, legal counsel to the Trust and to the Independent Trustees, and the funds' independent registered public accounting firm may receive such information on an as needed basis. Disclosure of portfolio holdings to these entities is subject to receipt of reasonable assurance that: (1) the information will be kept confidential; (2) no employee or agent will use the information to effect trading or for their personal benefit; and (3) the nature and type of information that any employee or agent, in turn, may disclose to third-parties is limited.

From time to time, nonpublic information regarding a fund's portfolio holdings may also be disclosed to certain mutual fund consultants, analysts, or other entities or persons ("Recipients") that have a legitimate business purpose in receiving such information. Any disclosure of information more current than the latest publicly available portfolio holdings information will be made only if a Trust officer (*i.e.*, the President or the Treasurer) determines that: (1) the more current information is necessary for a Recipient to complete a specified task; (2) the fund has legitimate business purposes for disclosing the information; and (3) the disclosure is in the best interests of the fund and its shareholders. Any Recipient receiving such information shall agree in writing to: (1) keep the information confidential; (2) use it only for agreed-upon purposes; and (3) not trade or advise others to trade securities, including shares of the fund, on the basis of the information. Such confidentiality agreements entered into for the receipt of nonpublic information shall also provide, among other things, that the Recipient: (1) will limit access to the information to its employees and agents who are obligated to keep and treat such information as confidential; (2) assume responsibility for any breach of the terms of the confidentiality agreement by its employees; and (3) upon request from the Trust, will return or promptly destroy the information. The Trust officer shall report to the Board at its next regularly scheduled Board meeting the entering into of an agreement with a Recipient for the disclosure of nonpublic portfolio holdings information and shall include in the report the Trust officer's reasons for determining to permit such disclosure.

The Adviser may provide investment management for accounts of clients other than the funds, which may result in some of those accounts having a composition substantially similar to that of the funds. The Adviser and its affiliates may provide regular information to clients and others regarding the holdings in accounts that the Adviser manages, but no information is provided to clients or others that identifies the actual composition of a fund's holdings, specifies the amount of a fund's assets invested in a security or specifies the extent of any such similarities among accounts managed by the Adviser.

No compensation is received by the funds, or, to the funds' knowledge, paid to its Adviser or any other party in connection with the disclosure of the funds' portfolio holdings. The codes of ethics of the Trust and the Adviser are intended to address, among other things, potential conflicts of interest arising from the misuse of information concerning a fund's portfolio holdings. In addition, the funds' service providers may be subject to confidentiality provisions contained within their service agreements, codes of ethics, professional codes, or other similar policies that address conflicts of interest arising from the misuse of such information.

The Adviser, Administrator and Distributor must inform a Trust officer if it identifies any conflict between the interests of shareholders and those of another party resulting from the disclosure of nonpublic portfolio holdings information. Such conflicts will be reported to the Board for appropriate action at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

There is no assurance that the funds' portfolio holdings disclosure policy will protect the funds against potential misuse of holdings information by individuals or firms in possession of that information.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST**

### **A. Board of Trustees**

The Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees. The Board oversees the management and operations of the Trust and the funds in accordance with federal law, Delaware law and the stated policies of the funds. The Board oversees the Trust's officers and service providers, including the Adviser, who is responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of each fund based on policies and agreements reviewed and approved by the Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Board regularly interacts with and receives reports from senior personnel of service providers and the CCO. The Board also is assisted by the Trust's independent auditor (which reports directly to the Trust's Audit Committee), independent counsel and other experts as appropriate. The Trustees serve until their respective successors have been elected and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal.

The fund complex includes the funds advised by U.S. Global Investors, Inc., which are the Global Luxury Goods Fund, Gold and Precious Metals Fund, World Precious Minerals Fund, Global Resources Fund, Near-Term Tax Free Fund, U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund (the “Fund Complex”).

**Board Structure and Related Matters.** Independent Trustees constitute at least a majority of the Board members. David Tucker, an Independent Trustee, serves as Independent Chair of the Board. The Independent Chair’s responsibilities include: setting an agenda for each meeting of the Board; presiding at all meetings of the Board and Independent Trustees; and serving as a liaison with other trustees, the Trust’s officers, other management personnel and counsel to the funds. The Independent Chair also performs such other duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

The trustees discharge their responsibilities collectively as a Board, as well as through Board committees, each of which operates pursuant to a charter or procedures approved by the Board that delineates the specific responsibilities of that committee. The Board has established three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee. The members and responsibilities of each Board committee are summarized below.

The Board periodically evaluates its structure and composition as well as various aspects of its operations. The Board believes that its leadership structure, including its Independent Chair position and its committees, is appropriate for the Trust in light of, among other factors, the asset size and nature of each fund, the number of funds overseen by the Board, the arrangements for the conduct of each fund’s operations, the number of trustees and the Board’s responsibilities. On an annual basis, the Board conducts a self-evaluation that considers, among other matters, whether the Board and its committees are functioning effectively and whether, given the size and composition of the Board and each of its committees, the trustees are able to oversee effectively the number of funds.

The Board holds four regularly scheduled in-person meetings each year. The Board may hold special meetings, as needed, either in person or by telephone, to address matters arising between regular meetings. At least once per quarter during a regularly scheduled in-person meeting of the Board, the Independent Trustees meet without the presence of interested Trustees.

The trustees are identified in the table below, which provides information as to their principal business occupations held during the last five years and certain other information. Each Trustee serves until his death, resignation or removal and replacement. The address for all trustees is c/o Apex Fund Services, 190 Middle Street, Suite 101, Portland, Maine 04101.

Name and Year of Birth	Position with the Trust	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Series in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held By Trustee During Past Five Years
<b>Independent Trustees</b>					
David Tucker Born: 1958	Chairman of the Board; Trustee; Chairman, Nominating Committee and Qualified Legal Compliance Committee	Since 2015	Director, Blue Sky Experience (a charitable endeavor), since 2008; Senior Vice President & General Counsel, American Century Companies (an investment management firm), 1998-2008.	6	Trustee, Forum Funds; Trustee, Forum Funds II.
Mark D. Moyer Born: 1959	Trustee; Chairman Audit Committee	Since 2015	Independent consultant providing interim CFO services, principally to nonprofit organizations, 2011-2017, and since 2023; Chief Financial Officer, Freedom House (a NGO advocating political freedom and democracy) 2017-2021.	6	Trustee, Forum Funds, Trustee, Forum Funds II.
Jennifer Brown-Strabley Born: 1964	Trustee	Since 2015	Principal, Portland Global Advisors (a registered investment adviser) 1996-2010.	6	Trustee, Forum Funds; Trustee, Forum Funds II.

Name and Year of Birth	Position with the Trust	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years	Number of Series in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships Held By Trustee During Past Five Years
<b>Interested Trustees</b> (1)					
Karen Shaw Born: 1972	Trustee	Since 2023	Senior Vice President, Apex Fund Services since 2019; Senior Vice President, Atlantic Fund Services 2008-2019.	6	Trustee, Forum Funds; Trustee, Forum Funds II.

(1) Karen Shaw is currently treated as an interested person of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act, due to her affiliation with Apex Fund Services and her role as Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer of the Trust.

In addition to the information set forth in the table above, each trustee possesses certain relevant qualifications, experience, attributes or skills. The following provides additional information about these qualifications and experience.

**David Tucker:** Mr. Tucker has extensive experience in the investment management industry, including experience in senior management, legal and compliance roles at two large mutual fund complexes; service on various committees of the Investment Company Institute (“ICI”); and director of ICI Mutual (a mutual insurance company sponsored by the investment company industry), including service as chairman of the underwriting, risk and fraud committees of ICI Mutual’s board of directors. Mr. Tucker actively serves charitable organizations in the metropolitan Kansas City area.

**Mark D. Moyer:** Mr. Moyer has extensive experience with finance. He has served as chief financial officer for two non-governmental organizations and a publicly-listed integrated media company. Mr. Moyer also served as an adjunct professor of accounting at Fairfield University.

**Jennifer Brown-Strabley:** Ms. Brown-Strabley has extensive experience in the financial services and investment management industry, including institutional sales experience in global fixed-income and related quantitative research. Ms. Brown-Strabley also has experience in business start-up and operations and as a former principal of a registered investment adviser, for which she continues to provide consulting advice from time to time.

**Karen Shaw:** Ms. Shaw has extensive experience in the fund services industry, including senior management roles overseeing the mutual fund administration, fund accounting and financial reporting operations for a fund service provider specializing in third-party mutual fund administration. Ms. Shaw serves as principal financial officer for certain investment companies.

**Risk Oversight.** Consistent with its responsibility for oversight of the Trust and the funds, the Board oversees the management of risks relating to the administration and operation of the Trust and the funds. The Adviser, as part of its responsibilities for the day-to-day operations of the funds, is responsible for day-to-day risk management. The Board, in the exercise of its reasonable business judgment, also separately considers potential risks that may impact the funds. The Board performs this risk management oversight directly and, as to certain matters, through its committees (described below) and through the Independent Trustees. The following provides an overview of the principal, but not all, aspects of the Board’s oversight of risk management for the Trust and the funds.

In general, the funds’ risks include, among others, investment risk, valuation risk, compliance risk and operational risk. The Board has adopted, and periodically reviews, policies and procedures designed to address these and other risks to the Trust and the funds. In addition, under the general oversight of the Board, the Adviser and other service providers have themselves adopted a variety of policies, procedures and controls designed to address particular risks. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks. Further, the Adviser oversees and regularly monitors the investments, operations and compliance of each fund’s investments.

The Board also oversees risk management for the Trust and the funds through review of regular reports, presentations and other information from officers of the Trust and other persons. Senior officers of the Trust, senior officers of the Adviser and the CCO regularly report to the Board on a range of matters, including those relating to risk management. In this regard, the Board periodically receives reports regarding other service providers to the Trust, either directly or through the CCO. On at least a quarterly basis, the Independent Trustees meet with the CCO to discuss matters relating to the funds’ compliance program. Further, at least annually, the Board receives a report from the CCO regarding the effectiveness of the funds’ compliance program.

The Board receives regular reports from a Valuation Designee, composed of representatives of the Adviser. The Valuation Designee operates pursuant to the Trust’s Valuation and Error Correction Policy (the “Valuation Policy”), as approved by the Board. The Valuation Designee reports to the Board on the pricing of the funds’ shares and the valuation of the funds’ portfolio securities; recommends, subject to approval by the Board, independent pricing services to provide a value for fund assets; makes and monitors fair value determinations pursuant to the Valuation Policy; and carries out any other functions delegated to it by the Board relating to the valuation of fund assets.

The Board also regularly receives reports from the Adviser with respect to the investments and securities trading of the funds. For example, typically, the Board receives reports, presentations and other information from the Adviser on at least an annual basis in connection with the Board’s consideration of the renewal of the investment advisory agreement between the Adviser and the Trust on behalf of the funds (the “Advisory Agreement”). Also, if applicable, the Board receives reports from the Adviser and other service providers in connection with the Board’s consideration of the renewal of any distribution plan of the funds under Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. Senior officers of the Trust and senior officers of the Adviser also report regularly to the Audit Committee on valuation matters, internal controls and accounting and financial reporting policies and practices. In addition, the Audit Committee receives regular reports from the Trust’s independent auditors on internal control and financial reporting matters.

**Trustee Ownership in the Funds and the Fund Complex.** The following table sets forth each trustee’s ownership of the funds and the Trust.

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Beneficial Ownership in the funds as of December 31, 2024</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Ownership as of December 31, 2024 in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in the Fund Complex</b>
<b>Independent Trustees</b>		
David Tucker	None	None
Mark D. Moyer	None	None
Jennifer Brown-Strabley	None	None
<b>Interested Trustees</b>		
Karen Shaw	None	None

**B. Principal Officers of the Trust**

The officers of the Trust conduct and supervise its daily business. As of the date of this SAI, the officers of the Trust, their year of birth and their principal occupations during the past five years are as set forth below. Each officer serves until his or her death, resignation or removal and replacement. The business address of each officer is c/o Apex Fund Services, 190 Middle Street, Suite 101, Portland, Maine 04101.

<b>Name and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position with the Trust</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>
Zachary Tackett Born: 1988	President; Principal Executive Officer; Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer; Identity Theft Prevention Officer	President and Principal Executive Officer since 2023; Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer and Identity Theft Prevention Officer since 2015; Vice President and Secretary, 2015-2023.	Senior Counsel, Apex Fund Services since 2019; Counsel, Atlantic Fund Services 2014-2019.

Name and Year of Birth	Position with the Trust	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years
Karen Shaw Born: 1972	Treasurer; Principal Financial Officer	Since 2015	Senior Vice President, Apex Fund Services since 2019; Senior Vice President, Atlantic Fund Services 2008-2019.
Carlyn Edgar Born: 1963	Chief Compliance Officer, Code of Ethics Review Officer	Since 2015	Senior Vice President, Apex Fund Services since 2019; Senior Vice President, Atlantic Fund Services 2008-2019.
Lindsey Dorval Born: 1981	Vice President; Secretary	Since 2023	Counsel, Apex Fund Services since 2020.
Lisa Callicotte Born: 1973	Vice President	Since 2020	Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Global Investors, Inc. since 2013.

### C. Ownership of Securities of the Adviser and Related Companies

As of December 31, 2024, no Independent Trustee (or any of his immediate family members) owned beneficially or of record, securities of any Trust investment adviser, its principal underwriter, or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with any Trust investment adviser or principal underwriter.

### D. Information Concerning Trust Committees

**Audit Committee.** The Trust’s Audit Committee, which meets when necessary, consists of Ms. Brown-Strabley and Messrs. Tucker and Moyer. Pursuant to a charter adopted by the Board on December 9, 2015, which superseded a previous charter, the Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of the accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Trust. It is directly responsible for the appointment, termination, compensation and oversight of work of the independent auditors to the Trust. In so doing, the Committee reviews the methods, scope and results of the audits and audit fees charged, and reviews the Trust’s internal accounting procedures and controls. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the Audit Committee met four times.

**Nominating Committee.** The Trust’s Nominating Committee, which meets when necessary, consists of Ms. Brown-Strabley and Messrs. Tucker and Moyer as of December 9, 2015. Pursuant to a charter adopted by the Board on December 9, 2015, which superseded a previous charter, the Nominating Committee is charged with the duty of nominating all trustees and committee members and presenting these nominations to the Board. The Nominating Committee will not consider any nominees for trustees recommended by security holders. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the Nominating Committee did not meet.

**Qualified Legal Compliance Committee.** The Qualified Legal Compliance Committee (the “QLCC”), which meets when necessary, consists of Ms. Brown-Strabley and Messrs. Tucker and Moyer. The QLCC evaluates and recommends resolutions to reports from attorneys servicing the Trust regarding evidence of material violations of applicable federal and state law or the breach of fiduciary duties under applicable federal and state law by the Trust or an employee or agent of the Trust. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the QLCC did not meet.

### E. Compensation of Trustees and Officers

The following table sets forth the fees paid to each trustee by the funds and the Fund Complex for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. No officer or board member received any other compensation, including pension or retirement benefits, directly or indirectly from the funds.

Trustee	Aggregate Compensation from the Funds	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as part of Fund Expenses	Total Compensation from Fund Complex
<b>Independent Trustees</b>			
David Tucker	\$32,500	N/A	\$32,500
Mark D. Moyer	\$25,000	N/A	\$25,000
Jennifer Brown-Strabley	\$25,000	N/A	\$25,000
<b>Interested Trustees</b>			
Karen Shaw	\$0	N/A	\$0

\*Each trustee was elected on December 9, 2015. The Independent Trustees of the Trust each receive an annual fee of \$25,000 for service to the Trust. The Chairman of the Board is paid an annual fee of \$32,500. Effective January 1, 2025, the Chair of the Audit Committee is paid an additional annual fee of \$2,000. The trustees and Chairman may receive additional fees for special Board meetings. Each trustee is also reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with his duties as a trustee, including travel and related expenses incurred in attending Board meetings. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. No other entity affiliated with the Trust pays any compensation to the trustees.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

The Trust and the Adviser have each adopted a Code of Ethics in accordance with Rule 17j-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”). The Code of Ethics allows access persons to purchase and sell securities for their own accounts, subject to certain reporting requirements and trading restrictions. The Code of Ethics prohibits all persons subject to the Code of Ethics from purchasing or selling any security if such person knows or reasonably should know at the time of the transaction that the security was being purchased or sold or was being considered for such purchase or sale by a fund for a certain prescribed period of time. The foregoing description is qualified in its entirety by the Code of Ethics, a copy of which has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES**

Proxies for each fund’s portfolio securities are voted in accordance with the Adviser’s proxy voting policies and procedures, which are set forth below. Each fund’s proxy voting record, including information regarding how each fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the fund, for the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, is available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-US-FUNDS, and on the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

## **VOTING PROCEDURES**

The Adviser has retained Glass Lewis & Co. (“Glass Lewis”), a proxy voting and consulting firm, to receive proxy voting statements, provide information and research, make proxy vote recommendations, and handle the administrative functions associated with the voting of fund proxies. The proxy voting guidelines developed and maintained by Glass Lewis are an extensive list of common proxy voting issues and its voting recommendations. A copy of the guidelines can be obtained by calling 1-800-US-FUNDS and on the funds’ website at [www.usfunds.com](http://www.usfunds.com). Common proxy voting issues in the guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:

Election of Auditors - considering factors such as auditor’s financial interest or association with company, poor accounting practices, and fees paid for non-audit services.

Election of Directors - considering factors such as attendance at board meetings, service on other boards, failure to act on shareholder proposals, lack of audit, compensation, or nominating committee, correlation between CEO pay and company performance.

Proxy Contest - considering factors such as performance of the target company, management’s track record, and reimbursing solicitation expenses.

Takeover Defenses - considering factors such as poison pills, shareholder ability to call special meetings, and supermajority vote requirements.

Merger and Corporate Restructurings - considering factors such as valuation, market reaction, strategic rationale, negotiations, conflicts of interest, and governance.

State of Incorporation - considering factors such as governance provisions, economic benefits, and jurisdictional law.

Capital Structure - considering factors such as common stock authorization, dual-class stock authorization, and preferred stock authorization.

Executive and Director Compensation - considering factors such as equity compensation plans, poor pay practices, employee stock purchase plans, and option backdating practices.

While Glass Lewis makes the proxy vote recommendations, the Adviser retains the ultimate authority on deciding how to vote. However, in general, it is the Adviser’s policy to vote in accordance with Glass Lewis. A decision to override Glass Lewis’ recommendation is made by the Adviser’s Proxy Review Committee. In reviewing and evaluating Glass Lewis’ recommendations, the Proxy Review Committee may consider information from other sources, including the recommendation of a portfolio team member as well as the fundamental and statistical models used by the portfolio department when making investment decisions. One of the primary factors the committee considers when determining the desirability of investing in a particular company is the quality and depth of that company’s management.

Accordingly, the recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the committee considers in determining how proxies should be voted. As a matter of practice, the committee will vote in accordance with management's position. However, each issue is individually evaluated and the committee will consider its effect on the investment merits of owning that company's shares. With respect to international securities, the committee is mindful of the varied market practices and environments relating to corporate governance in the local regions. The committee members' experience enables them to understand the complexities of the regions in which they invest and to skillfully analyze the proxy issues relevant to the regions. The committee may decide that it is in a fund's best interest to not vote the shares of foreign companies. All votes contrary to Glass Lewis's recommendation are reported to the board of trustees.

Glass Lewis does not provide proxy voting services for certain securities held by the fund (*i.e.*, a privately held company) and, therefore, will not make a vote recommendation. The Adviser's Proxy Review Committee will evaluate these proxies in the same manner it uses to determine if it is appropriate to override Glass Lewis' recommendation.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If the Proxy Review Committee determines that, through reasonable inquiry, an issue raises a potential material conflict of interest, the Proxy Review Committee will follow the recommendations of Glass Lewis, provided that if the committee believes that it would be in the best interest of the Trust to vote a proxy other than according to the recommendation of Glass Lewis, the committee shall document in writing the basis supporting its determination. A summary of all such votes shall be presented to the board of trustees at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board.

## PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is a shareholder who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledges the existence of control. Shareholders owning voting securities in excess of 25% may determine the outcome of any matter affecting and voted on by shareholders of the Fund. As of April 4, 2025, the officers and trustees of the Trust, as a group, owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each fund's Investor Class shares. The funds are aware of the following entities or persons who owned beneficially or of record more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Investor Class shares of the funds as of April 4, 2025. The Funds believe that these shares were owned of record by such holders for their fiduciary, agency or custodial accounts.

FUND	SHAREHOLDERS	PERCENTAGE OWNED
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	National Financial Services, Cust the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers	22.23%
	Charles Schwab and Co Inc	20.74%
World Precious Minerals Fund	Charles Schwab and Co Inc	20.65%
	National Financial Services, Cust the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers	13.53%
Global Resources Fund	Charles Schwab and Co Inc	25.16%
	National Financial Services, Cust the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers	14.53%
	Citi Private Bank 1	7.53%
	JP Morgan Securities LLC	6.33%
Global Luxury Goods Fund	Charles Schwab and Co Inc	7.65%
	National Financial Services, Cust the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers	5.63%
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	US Global Investors Inc	18.60%
	National Financial Services, Cust the Exclusive Benefit of our Customers	8.70%
	William P. Pivnick	8.00%

<b>FUND</b>	<b>SHAREHOLDERS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OWNED</b>
	Charles Schwab and Co Inc	5.57%
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	US Global Investors Inc	17.72%
	NABank and Co	6.04%

### INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

The investment adviser to the funds is U.S. Global Investors, Inc. (Adviser), a Texas corporation, pursuant to an advisory agreement dated as of October 1, 2008. Frank E. Holmes, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Adviser, beneficially owns more than 25% of the outstanding voting stock of the Adviser and is a controlling person of the Adviser.

The Investor Class of the funds listed below would have paid the following management fees (exclusive of any performance fee adjustments and net of expenses paid by the Adviser or fee waivers) for the three most recent fiscal years:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$ 445,859	\$ 461,195	\$ 489,186
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$ 1,104,812	\$ 917,116	\$ 950,459
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$ 681,863	\$ 491,501	\$ 406,447
Global Resources Fund	\$ 602,770	\$ 478,740	\$ 396,736
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$ 165,407	\$ 143,530	\$ 125,364
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$ 175,601	\$ 164,270	\$ 151,481

The funds listed below paid the following management fees (inclusive of any performance fee adjustments and net of expenses paid by the Adviser or fee waivers) for the three most recent fiscal years:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$ 278,101	\$ 451,103	\$ 282,690
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$ 955,146	\$ 692,988	\$ 930,488
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$ 445,915	\$ 236,195	\$ 140,408
Global Resources Fund	\$ 417,501	\$ 248,866	\$ 134,709
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

The Trust pays the Adviser a separate management fee for each fund in the Trust. The Adviser's fee may be reduced if the assets of certain funds reach a certain level and this reduction is reflected in the Base Advisory Fee Schedule below. In addition, the Advisory fee for certain funds may be adjusted based upon the fund's performance relative to the cumulative performance of its benchmark index and hurdle rate as reflected in the Performance Fee Schedule below. The Advisory fee is paid monthly.

### BASE ADVISORY FEE SCHEDULE

<b>FUND</b>	<b>ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF AVERAGE DAILY NET ASSETS</b>
Global Luxury Goods Fund	1.00%
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	0.90% <\$500,000,000; 0.85%> \$500,000,000
World Precious Minerals Fund	1.00%<\$500,000,000; 0.95% \$500,000,001 - \$1,000,000,000; 0.90%>\$1,000,000,000
Global Resources Fund	0.95%<\$500,000,000; 0.90% \$500,000,001 - \$1,000,000,000; 0.85%>\$1,000,000,000
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	0.50%
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	0.50%<\$250,000,000; 0.375%>\$250,000,000

The Adviser has contractually agreed to limit total fund operating expenses (exclusive of acquired fund fees and expenses, extraordinary expenses, taxes, brokerage commissions and interest, and advisory fee performance adjustments, if any) to not exceed 1.75% for each of

the Global Luxury Goods Fund, Gold and Precious Metals Fund, World Precious Minerals Fund, and Global Resources Fund, and 0.45% for the Near-Term Tax Free Fund through April 30, 2026. These expense limitations may only be raised or eliminated with the consent of the Board of Trustees. The effects of the contractual limitations are reflected in the Fees and Expenses of each fund in the Summary Section, as applicable. In addition, the Adviser has voluntarily agreed to limit total fund operating expenses (exclusive of acquired fund fees and expenses, extraordinary expenses, taxes, brokerage commissions and interest) for the U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund to 0.45%. This expense limitation will continue on a voluntary basis at the Adviser's discretion.

## **PERFORMANCE FEE SCHEDULE**

Until June 1, 2025, the management fee paid by Global Resources Fund to the Adviser is subject to a downward performance adjustment, depending upon the performance of the fund relative to its designated benchmark index, the S&P Global Natural Resources Index (Net Total Return) over a 12-month rolling period (the "performance adjustment"). If the fund's cumulative performance falls below the S&P Global Natural Resources Index (Net Total Return) by 5% or more, the base management fee of 0.95% will be decreased by 0.25%. Therefore, the management fee for Global Resources Fund will range from a minimum of 0.70% (in the event that the performance of the fund lags the S&P Global Natural Resources Index (Net Total Return)) to a maximum of 0.95% (in the event that the performance of the fund lags the S&P Global Natural Resources Index (Net Total Return) by less than 5% or exceeds the S&P Global Natural Resources Index (Net Total Return)). Effective June 1, 2025, the management fee for Global Resources Fund is 0.95% and is no longer subject to a performance adjustment.

## **TERMS OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT**

The investment advisory agreement will continue in effect from year to year with respect to a fund only if the agreement is approved at least annually both (i) by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such fund (as defined in the 1940 Act) or by the board of trustees of the Trust, and (ii) by a vote of a majority of the trustees who are not parties to the advisory agreement or "interested persons" of any party thereto (the "Independent Trustees"), cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The advisory agreement may be terminated on 60 days' written notice by either party and will terminate automatically if it is assigned.

The Adviser may, out of profits derived from its management fee, pay certain financial institutions (which may include banks, securities dealers and to other industry professionals) a "servicing fee" and other non-cash compensation for performing certain administrative servicing functions for fund shareholders to the extent these institutions are allowed to do so by applicable statute, rule or regulation. These payments and compensation are in addition to the fees paid by the funds. These fees will be paid periodically and will generally be based on a percentage of the value of the institutions' client fund shares. Additional cash payments may be made by the Adviser or Distributor intermediaries that provide marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the intermediaries.

From time to time, the Adviser may also pay non-cash compensation to the sales representatives of intermediaries in the form of occasional gifts; (ii) occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; and/or (iii) sponsorship support of regional or national events of intermediaries.

In addition to advising client accounts, the Adviser may invest in securities for their own accounts. The Adviser has adopted policies and procedures intended to minimize or avoid potential conflicts with their clients when trading for their own accounts. The investment objectives and strategies of the Adviser are different from those of its clients, emphasizing venture capital investing, private placement arbitrage, and speculative short-term trading. The Adviser uses a diversified approach to venture capital investing. Investments typically involve early-stage businesses seeking initial financing as well as more mature businesses in need of capital for expansion, acquisitions, management buyouts, or recapitalization. Overall, the Adviser typically invests in start-up companies in the natural resources or technology fields.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENTS**

Under an Amended and Restated Administrative Services Agreement dated December 9, 2015 (the "Administrative Services Agreement"), the Adviser provides support for day-to-day administrative services to the Trust including assistance in preparing compliance materials pursuant to Rule 38a-1 of the 1940 Act to improve overall compliance by the Trust and its various agents; assistance in the preparation and filing for the Trust of all required tax returns; assistance in preparing and filing of currently required or to be required reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulatory and self-regulatory authorities including, but not limited to, preliminary and definitive proxy materials, post-effective amendments to the registration statement, semi-annual reports on Form N-SAR, Form N-CSR, Form N-PORT, Form N-PX, and notices pursuant to Rule 24f-2 under the 1940 Act; and preparing and filing any regulatory reports as required by any regulatory agency. As of December 9, 2015, the Adviser is no longer paid a base administrative services fee by each fund.

On December 9, 2015, the Trust also entered into a Services Agreement (“Services Agreement”) with Apex Fund Services (“Apex”) as amended and restated. Pursuant to the Services Agreement and Administrative Services Agreement, Apex and the Adviser act as co-administrators to the Trust, subject to the oversight and control of the Board of Trustees of the Trust. Apex’s services to the Trust include provision of certain officers as well as assistance with certain Trust and fund administration tasks, including, but not limited to: (a) maintaining books and records related to fund cash and position reconciliations, and portfolio transactions; (b) preparation of financial statements and other reports for the funds; (c) calculating the net asset value of each fund (in accordance with each fund’s valuation policies and procedures); (d) preparing certain reports to shareholders; (e) calculating fees payable or allocable to the Adviser (as applicable); and (f) performing certain other administrative, compliance and clerical services in connection with the administration of the Trust pursuant to the terms of the Services Agreement.

The Administrative Services Agreement was effective October 1, 2008, and was last amended on December 9, 2015. The funds paid the following administrative fees to the Adviser (net of expenses paid by the Adviser or fee waivers) for the Investor Class for the three most recent fiscal years indicated:

FUND	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,		
	2022	2023	2024
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$ 22,293	\$ 23,060	\$ 24,459
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$ 61,380	\$ 50,952	\$ 52,802
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$ 34,094	\$ 24,576	\$ 20,322
Global Resources Fund	\$ 31,726	\$ 25,197	\$ 20,881
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$ 16,541	\$ 14,353	\$ 12,536
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$ 17,561	\$ 16,428	\$ 15,148

The Services Agreement with Apex became effective December 9, 2015, and was last amended on March 27, 2020. The Services Agreement provides for certain limitations of Apex’s liability and indemnification of Apex by the Trust and for certain indemnification obligations of Apex to the Trust.

For the three most recent fiscal years, the Investor Class of the funds paid the following amounts to Apex, as applicable:

Amounts paid to Apex under the Services Agreement:

FUND	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,		
	2022	2023	2024
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$ 79,450	\$ 81,527	\$ 84,338
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$ 161,592	\$ 142,658	\$ 146,381
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$ 110,394	\$ 93,272	\$ 85,570
Global Resources Fund	\$ 106,108	\$ 94,445	\$ 86,632
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$ 56,713	\$ 53,159	\$ 50,158
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$ 58,626	\$ 57,056	\$ 54,894

The Trust pays all other expenses for its operations and activities. Each of the funds of the Trust, and each of the funds’ classes, if applicable, pays its allocable portion of these expenses. The expenses borne by the Trust include the charges and expenses of any transfer agents and dividend disbursing agents, custodian fees, legal and auditors’ expenses, bookkeeping and accounting expenses, brokerage commissions for portfolio transactions, taxes, if any, the advisory fee, extraordinary expenses, expenses of issuing and redeeming shares, expenses of shareholder and trustee meetings, expenses of preparing, printing and mailing proxy statements, reports and other communications to shareholders, expenses of registering and qualifying shares for sale, fees of trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Adviser, expenses of attendance by officers and trustees at professional meetings of the Investment Company Institute, the Mutual Fund Education Alliance or similar organizations, and membership or organization dues of such organizations, expenses of preparing and setting in type the prospectus and periodic reports and expenses of mailing them to current shareholders, fidelity bond premiums, cost of maintaining the books and records of the Trust, and any other charges and fees not specified.

## DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION PLAN

**Distribution Agreement.** Under a novated Distribution Agreement with the Trust dated September 30, 2021, as may be amended, Foreside Fund Services, LLC (the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC (d/b/a ACA Group), acts as the agent of the Trust in connection with the continuous offering of shares of the funds. The Distributor continually distributes shares of the funds on a commercially reasonable basis. The Distributor has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of fund shares. The Distributor and its officers have no role in determining the investment policies or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Trust.

The Distributor may enter into agreements with selected broker-dealers, banks or other financial intermediaries for distribution of shares of the funds. With respect to certain financial intermediaries and related fund “supermarket” platform arrangements, the funds and/or the

Adviser, rather than the Distributor, typically enter into such agreements. These financial intermediaries may charge a fee for their services and may receive shareholder service or other fees from parties other than the Distributor. These financial intermediaries may otherwise act as processing agents and are responsible for promptly transmitting purchase, redemption and other requests to the funds.

Investors who purchase shares through financial intermediaries will be subject to the procedures of those intermediaries through which they purchase shares, which may include charges, investment minimums, cutoff times and other restrictions in addition to, or different from, those listed herein. Information concerning any charges or services will be provided to customers by the financial intermediary through which they purchase shares. Investors purchasing shares of the funds through financial intermediaries should acquaint themselves with their financial intermediary's procedures and should read the Prospectus in conjunction with any materials and information provided by their financial intermediary. The financial intermediary, and not its customers, will be the shareholder of record, although customers may have the right to vote shares depending upon their arrangement with the intermediary. The Distributor does not receive compensation from the funds for its distribution services except the distribution/service fees with respect to the shares of those classes for which a Rule 12b-1 plan is effective, as applicable. The Adviser pays the Distributor a fee for certain distribution-related services.

**Distribution Plan.** The Trust, including a majority of Independent Trustees who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Rule 12b-1 plan, has adopted a Rule 12b-1 plan under which the Global Resources Fund, Gold and Precious Metals Fund, Global Luxury Goods Fund and World Precious Minerals Fund (the "Equity Funds") are authorized to pay to the Distributor and any other entity authorized by the Board, including the Adviser (collectively, "payees"), a fee equal to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Equity Funds' Investor Class Shares for distribution services and/or the servicing of shareholder accounts. The payees may pay any or all amounts received under the Rule 12b-1 plan to other persons for any distribution or service activity conducted on behalf of the Equity Funds. The Rule 12b-1 plan is a core component of the ongoing distribution of the Equity Funds' Investor Class Shares, which is intended to attract and retain assets from prospective investors and may realize potential economies of scale for shareholders in the form of future lower expense ratios. Pursuant to an agreement between the Distributor and the Trust, amounts received by the Distributor are not held for profit at the Distributor, but instead are used to pay for and/or reimburse the Adviser for distribution-related and/or service expenses.

The Rule 12b-1 plan provides that the payees may incur expenses for distribution and service activities including, but not limited to any sales, marketing and other activities primarily intended to result in the sale of Equity Fund shares and (2) providing services to holders of shares related to their investment in the Equity Funds, including, without limitation, providing assistance in connection with responding to shareholder inquiries regarding the Equity Fund's investment objective, policies and other operational features and inquiries regarding shareholder accounts. Expenses for such activities include compensation to employees and expenses, including overhead and telephone and other communication expenses, of a payee who engages in or supports the distribution of Equity Fund shares or who provides shareholder servicing such as responding to shareholder inquiries regarding the Equity Funds' operations; the incremental costs of printing (excluding typesetting) and distributing prospectuses, statements of additional information, annual reports and other periodic reports for use in connection with the offering or sale of Equity Fund shares to any prospective investors; and the costs of preparing, printing and distributing sales literature and advertising materials used by the Distributor, the Adviser or others in connection with the offering of Equity Fund shares for sale to the public.

The Rule 12b-1 plan requires the payees to prepare and submit to the Board, at least quarterly, and the Board to review, written reports setting forth all amounts expended under the Rule 12b-1 plan and identifying the activities for which those expenditures were made. The Rule 12b-1 plan obligates the Equity Funds to compensate payees for services and not to reimburse them for expenses incurred. The Funds do not participate in any joint distribution agreements.

The Rule 12b-1 plan provides that it will remain in effect for one year from the date of its adoption and thereafter shall continue in effect provided it is approved at least annually by the shareholders or by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees. The Rule 12b-1 plan further provides that it may not be amended to materially increase the costs that an Equity Fund or class bears for distribution/shareholder servicing pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 plan without approval by affected shareholders and that other material amendments of the Rule 12b-1 plan must be approved by the Independent Trustees. The current Rule 12b-1 plan may be terminated with respect to Investor Shares at any time by the Board, by a majority of the Independent Trustees or by the shareholders of Investor Shares.

Expenses in connection with the Rule 12b-1 compensation plan for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, are set forth in the table below:

Fund	Advertising	Printing and Mailing of Prospectuses to Other Than Current Shareholders	Compensation to Underwriters	Compensation to Broker-Dealers	Compensation to Sales Personnel	Interest, Carrying or Other Financial Charges	Other
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Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$52,480	n/a	\$8,560	\$19,752	\$15,535	n/a	\$29,608
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$10,656	n/a	\$10,329	\$135,781	\$34,129	n/a	\$68,411
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$4,224	n/a	\$8,322	\$46,188	\$13,472	n/a	\$26,790
Global Resources Fund	\$7,251	n/a	\$8,371	\$55,090	\$11,460	n/a	\$16,235

Foreside Fund Services, LLC received \$592,328 from the above funds during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. Rule 12b-1 plan monies received but not disbursed are held at the Distributor for future distribution related expenses.

### TRANSFER AGENCY AGREEMENT

Apex also serves as each fund's transfer agent pursuant to the Services Agreement, as amended. Each fund pays Apex a monthly fee, as well as certain out-of-pocket expenses. Certain account fees are paid directly by shareholders to the transfer agent, which, in turn, reduces its charges to the funds.

In connection with obtaining and/or providing administrative services to the beneficial owners of Trust shares through broker-dealers, banks, trust companies and similar institutions which provide such services, the Trust has adopted a Shareholder Services Plan. The Shareholder Services Plan provides that each fund shall pay a monthly fee up to one-twelfth (1/12) of 20 basis points (0.20%) of the value of the shares of the funds held in accounts at the institutions. These fees cover the usual transfer agency functions.

### PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

#### COMPENSATION FOR FRANK HOLMES, RALPH ALDIS, AND JOANNA SAWICKA

The Adviser seeks to maintain a compensation program that is competitively positioned to attract and retain high-caliber portfolio managers. Compensation for the portfolio managers consists of the following:

**BASE SALARY.** Each portfolio manager is paid a base salary from the Adviser that is competitive in light of the portfolio manager's experience and responsibilities.

**MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY BONUSES.** The bonuses are primarily driven by assets under management and performance of the funds. Bonuses are awarded only if the fund performance is within certain percentiles of each fund's Lipper peer group, performance or the Sortino Ratio is above the benchmark or is awarded certain rankings by third-party ranking services. The following is the Lipper peer group for each of the funds: Global Luxury Goods Fund - Lipper Consumer Services Funds; Near-Term Tax Free Fund - Lipper Short-Intermediate Municipal Debt Funds; Gold and Precious Metals and World Precious Minerals Funds - Lipper Precious Metals Equity Funds and Global Resources Fund - Lipper Global Natural Resources Funds. The portfolio managers serving on investment teams providing advisory services to accounts with performance-based fees may receive a discretionary bonus.

The portfolio managers are provided benefits packages including life insurance, health insurance and a company 401(k) plan comparable to that received by other company employees.

Frank Holmes receives a base salary, a percentage of other portfolio managers monthly and quarterly bonuses, an annual bonus based upon the Adviser's operational earnings, and an annual bonus based upon the performance of the Adviser's own investment account.

#### PORTFOLIO MANAGER: FRANK E. HOLMES

#### OTHER MANAGED ACCOUNTS AS OF 12/31/2024

TYPE OF ACCOUNT	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	TOTAL ASSETS	NUMBER OF PERFORMANCE FEE ACCOUNTS	TOTAL ASSETS OF PERFORMANCE FEE ACCOUNTS
Registered investment companies	4	\$ 1.17 billion	0	\$ 0
Pooled investment vehicles	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
Other accounts	1	\$ 16.7 million	0	\$ 0

The Adviser manages one other account that pays a performance-based fee which could result in a higher fee than the management of the funds. The payment of a higher fee may create an incentive to give preferential treatment to the performance fee accounts. The Adviser has adopted trade allocation procedures designed to address this potential conflict.

#### Ownership of Securities

#### DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND HELD AS OF 12/31/2024

NAME OF FUND	DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND HELD AS OF 12/31/2024
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$500,001 – \$1,000,000
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$100,001 – \$500,000
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$50,001 – \$100,000
Global Resources Fund	\$100,001 – \$500,000
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$500,001 – \$1,000,000
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	Over \$1,000,000

#### PORTFOLIO MANAGER: RALPH ALDIS

#### OTHER MANAGED ACCOUNTS AS OF 12/31/2024

TYPE OF ACCOUNT	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	TOTAL ASSETS	NUMBER OF PERFORMANCE FEE ACCOUNTS	TOTAL ASSETS OF PERFORMANCE FEE ACCOUNTS
Registered investment companies	4	\$ 1.17 billion	0	\$ 0
Pooled investment vehicles	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
Other accounts	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0

#### Ownership of Securities

#### DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND HELD AS OF 12/31/2024

NAME OF FUND	DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND HELD AS OF 12/31/2024
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$100,001-\$500,000
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$100,001-\$500,000
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$50,001-\$100,000
Global Resources Fund	\$100,001-\$500,000
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$50,001-\$100,000
U.S. Government Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$500,001-\$1,000,000

#### PORTFOLIO MANAGER: JOANNA SAWICKA

#### OTHER MANAGED ACCOUNTS AS OF 12/31/2024

TYPE OF ACCOUNT	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	TOTAL ASSETS	NUMBER OF PERFORMANCE FEE ACCOUNTS	TOTAL ASSETS OF PERFORMANCE FEE ACCOUNTS
Registered investment companies	1	\$ 1.0 million	0	\$ 0
Pooled investment vehicles	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
Other accounts	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0

#### Ownership of Securities

#### DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND HELD AS OF 12/31/2024

NAME OF FUND	DOLLAR RANGE OF EQUITY SECURITIES IN THE FUND HELD AS OF 12/31/2024
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$10,001-\$50,000
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$50,001-\$100,000
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$10,001-\$50,000
Global Resources Fund	\$1 - \$10,000
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$1 - \$10,000
U.S. Government Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$1 - \$10,000

## REGULAR BROKERS OR DEALERS

On December 31, 2024, none of the funds held securities of its “regular brokers or dealers” (as such term is defined by Rule 10b-1 of the 1940 Act).

### BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES

Decisions to buy and sell securities for the funds and placing the funds’ securities transactions and negotiation of commission rates, where applicable, are made by the Adviser and are subject to review by the board of trustees. The Adviser seeks best execution for a fund taking into account various factors, including the breadth of the market in the security, the price of the security, the financial condition and execution capability of the broker or dealer (for a specified transaction and on a continuing basis), the reasonableness of the commission, if any, and the brokerage and research services provided to the Trust and/or other accounts over which the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser exercises investment discretion. The Adviser is permitted, in certain circumstances, to pay a higher commission than might otherwise be obtained in order to acquire brokerage and research services. The Adviser must determine in good faith, however, that such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided - viewed in terms of that particular transaction or in terms of all the accounts over which investment discretion is exercised. In such case, the board of trustees will review the commissions paid by each fund of the Trust to determine if the commissions paid over representative periods of time were reasonable in relation to the benefits obtained. The advisory fee of the Adviser will not be reduced due to its receipt of such brokerage and research services. To the extent that research services of value are provided by broker-dealers through or with whom the Trust places portfolio transactions the Adviser may be relieved of expenses which it might otherwise bear. Research services and products may be useful to the Adviser in providing investment advice to other clients they advise. Thus, there may be no correlation between the amount of brokerage commissions generated by a particular fund or client and the indirect benefits received by that fund or client.

The funds may, in some instances, purchase securities that are not listed on a national securities exchange or quoted on NASDAQ, but rather are traded in the over-the-counter market. When the transactions are executed in the over-the-counter market, the funds generally intend to deal with the primary market makers. However, the services of brokers will be utilized if it is anticipated that the best overall terms can thereby be obtained. Purchases of newly issued securities for the Near-Term Tax Free Fund usually are placed with those dealers from which it appears that the best price or execution will be obtained. Those dealers may be acting as either agents or principals.

The brokerage commissions paid by the following funds for the three most recent fiscal years were as follows:

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$ 271,731	\$ 225,180	\$ 175,485
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$ 499,534	\$ 324,299	\$ 431,588
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$ 196,660	\$ 111,783	\$ 152,415
Global Resources Fund	\$ 184,121	\$ 200,743	\$ 165,072
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$ 6,400	\$ 0	\$ 1,024
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$ 1,200	\$ 900	\$ 0

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the following funds paid approximately \$665,536 in brokerage commissions to firms that provided research services to the Adviser. These trades involved approximately \$366,891,261 in principal value. The brokerage fees paid in this manner for each fund were as follows:

	<b>COMMISSIONS</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL VALUE</b>
Global Luxury Goods Fund	\$ 150,353	\$ 158,489,642
Gold and Precious Metals Fund	\$ 289,971	\$ 114,171,776
World Precious Minerals Fund	\$ 93,093	\$ 22,399,096
Global Resources Fund	\$ 130,935	\$ 69,781,460
Near-Term Tax Free Fund	\$ 1,184	\$ 2,049,287
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 665,536</b>	<b>\$ 366,891,261</b>

### TRADE AGGREGATION AND ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

The Adviser has adopted Trade Aggregation and Allocation Procedures (the “Procedures”) under which the Adviser may aggregate client (including the funds) purchase or sale orders and may also aggregate orders for the Adviser’s own account to achieve more efficient execution, lower per share brokerage costs, and in the aggregate, better prices. The Adviser’s Procedures are designed to ensure that each

of the Adviser's clients is treated in a fair and equitable manner over time by not intentionally favoring one client over another. Among other things, the Procedures require the Adviser to: (i) aggregate client orders only when consistent with the Adviser's duty of best execution and with the client's investment objectives, account guidelines and other objective criteria, (ii) specify in advance the client accounts that will participate in the aggregated transaction, (iii) specify the relevant allocation method with respect to the aggregated order, and (iv) allocate on a pro rata basis the price and per share commission and transaction costs to each client participating in the aggregated transaction. The Adviser does not receive additional compensation or remuneration solely as a result of a trade aggregation or allocation. Trades will be aggregated when in the best interest of and overall fairness to each client. The Procedures also provide that the Adviser will monitor to ensure that no client is disadvantaged as a result of aggregated transactions over time.

Investments in private placements of limited size are not subject to the aggregation policy described above, and priority may be given to accounts managed by the investment personnel generating the investment idea pursuant to the Procedures. However, the Procedures are designed to monitor allocations of limited investment opportunities to ensure that such opportunities are allocated in a fair and equitable manner over time. In addition, the funds' ability to participate in certain private placements could be limited as a result of direct or indirect relationships of the Adviser or its principals with other clients or potential portfolio companies.

## **PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES**

The following information supplements the discussion of how to buy fund shares as discussed in the prospectus.

Shares of each fund are continuously offered by the Trust at their net asset value next determined after an order is accepted. The methods available for purchasing shares of the fund are described in the Prospectus. In addition, shares of the fund may be purchased using securities, so long as the securities delivered to the Trust meet the investment objectives and concentration policies of the fund and are otherwise acceptable to the Adviser, which reserves the right to reject all or any part of the securities offered in exchange for shares of the fund. On any such "in kind" purchase, the following conditions will apply:

1. The securities offered by the investor in exchange for shares of the fund must not be in any way restricted as to resale or otherwise be illiquid.
2. Securities of the same issuer must already exist in the fund's portfolio.
3. The securities must have a value that is readily ascertainable (and not established only by valuation procedures) as evidenced by a listing on the NYSE, or NASDAQ-AMEX.
4. Any securities so acquired by the fund shall not comprise over 5% of the fund's net assets at the time of such exchange.
5. No over-the-counter securities will be accepted unless the principal over-the-counter market is in the United States.
6. The securities are acquired for investment and not for resale.

The Trust believes that this ability to purchase shares of the fund using securities provides a means by which holders of certain securities may obtain diversification and continuous professional management of their investments without the expense of selling those securities in the public market.

An investor who wishes to make an "in kind" purchase should furnish a list (either in writing or by telephone) to the Trust with a full and exact description of all of the securities he or she proposes to deliver. The Trust will advise him or her as to those securities it is prepared to accept and will provide the investor with the necessary forms to be completed and signed by the investor. The investor should then send the securities, in proper form for transfer, with the necessary forms to the Trust and certify that there are no legal or contractual restrictions on the free transfer and sale of the securities. The securities will be valued as of the close of business on the day of receipt by the Trust in the same manner as portfolio securities of the fund are valued. See the section entitled Net Asset Value in the prospectus. The number of shares of the fund, having a net asset value as of the close of business on the day of receipt equal to the value of the securities delivered by the investor, will be issued to the investor, less applicable stock transfer taxes, if any.

The exchange of securities by the investor pursuant to this offer is a taxable transaction and may result in a gain or loss for federal income tax purposes. Each investor should consult his or her tax adviser to determine the tax consequences under federal and state law of making such an "in kind" purchase.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REDEMPTIONS**

**REDEMPTION IN KIND.** The Declaration of Trust permits the right to redeem fund shares in cash or in kind. However, the Global Luxury Goods Fund AND the Gold and Precious Metals Fund have elected to be governed by Rule 18f-1 under the Investment Company

Act of 1940, pursuant to which the Trust is obligated to redeem shares of these funds solely in cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or one percent of the net asset value of the Trust during any 90-day period for any one shareholder. Any shareholder of these funds receiving a redemption in kind would then have to pay brokerage fees in order to convert the investment into cash. All redemptions in kind will be made in marketable securities of the particular fund. Redemptions in kind are taxable for federal income tax purposes in the same manner as when sales proceeds are paid in cash.

**SUSPENSION OF REDEMPTION PRIVILEGES.** The Trust may not suspend redemption privileges, or postpone the date of payment for more than seven days after the redemption order is received, except during any period (1) when the NYSE is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings, or trading on the NYSE is restricted as determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), (2) when an emergency exists, as defined by the SEC, which makes it not reasonably practicable for the Trust to dispose of securities owned by it or fairly to determine the value of its assets, or (3) as the SEC may otherwise permit.

## FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

### TAXATION OF THE FUNDS – IN GENERAL

Each fund has elected and qualified and intends to continue to qualify as a “regulated investment company” under Subchapter M of the Code. If a fund so qualifies, it will not be liable for federal income taxes on its taxable net investment income and capital gain net income that are distributed to shareholders.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, a fund must satisfy the following requirements:

- distribute each taxable year at least the sum of (i) 90% of the fund’s investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, dividends, interest, the excess of any net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss and other taxable income, other than any net long-term capital gain, reduced by deductible expenses) determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and (ii) 90% of a fund’s net tax-exempt interest (the excess of its gross tax-exempt interest over certain disallowed deductions). Each fund intends to distribute substantially all of such income each year (“Distribution Requirement”);
- derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (“Gross Income Test”);
- satisfy the following asset diversification test at the close of each quarter of the fund’s tax year: (1) at least 50% of the value of the fund’s assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and securities of other issuers (as to which the fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of the fund’s total assets in securities of an issuer and as to which the fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer); and (2) no more than 25% of the value of the fund’s total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other regulated investment companies) or of two or more issuers which the fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or, in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (“Asset Value Test”).

The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company may significantly limit the extent to which a fund may invest in some investments, including certain commodity exchange-traded funds and commodity-linked investments. Furthermore, in order to be entitled to pay exempt-interest dividends to shareholders, the Near-Term Tax Free Fund must satisfy the requirement that, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of its total assets consists of state, local and other obligations the interest of which is exempt from federal income tax under section 103(a) of the Code. The Near-Term Tax Free Fund intends to satisfy this requirement.

If for any taxable year, a fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, all of its taxable income (including its net capital gain) would be subject to federal income tax at the corporate income tax rate without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders, and the dividends would be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits. Failure to qualify as a regulated investment company would thus have a negative impact on the fund’s income and performance. Subject to savings provisions for certain failures to satisfy the Gross Income Test or Asset Value Test, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, it is possible that the fund will not qualify as a regulated investment company in any given tax year. Even if such savings provisions apply, the fund may be subject to a monetary sanction of \$50,000 or more. Moreover, the Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the fund as a regulated investment company if it determines such a course of action to be beneficial to shareholders.

For investors that hold their fund shares in a taxable account, a high portfolio turnover rate may result in higher taxes. This is because a fund with a high turnover rate is likely to accelerate the recognition of capital gains and more of such gains are likely to be taxable as short-term rather than long-term capital gains in contrast to a comparable fund with a low turnover rate. Any such higher taxes would reduce the fund's after-tax performance. For non-U.S. investors, any such acceleration of the recognition of capital gains that results in more short-term and less long-term capital gains being recognized by the fund may cause such investors to be subject to increased U.S. withholding taxes.

The Code imposes a non-deductible 4% excise tax on a regulated investment company that fails to distribute during each calendar year an amount equal to at least the sum of (1) 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of its capital gain net income for the twelve-month period ending on October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) any prior year undistributed ordinary income and capital gain net income. Because the excise tax is based upon undistributed taxable income, it will not apply to tax-exempt income received by the Near-Term Tax Free Fund. The funds intend to make such distributions as are necessary to avoid imposition of this excise tax.

A possibility exists that exchange control regulations imposed by foreign governments may restrict or limit the ability of a fund to distribute net investment income or the proceeds from the sale of its investments to its shareholders.

## TAXATION OF THE FUND'S INVESTMENTS

Securities sold during a period may generate gains or losses based on the cost at which they were purchased. Net realized capital losses, for federal income tax purposes, may be carried forward to offset current or future capital gains for an unlimited period. The funds' capital gains and losses are determined only at the end of each fiscal year. The loss carryforwards and related expiration dates for each fund, as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

	<b>No Expiration</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>	
U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond	\$ 419,432	\$ 387,362	\$ 806,794
Near-Term Tax Free	\$ 1,041,721	\$ 1,745,847	\$ 2,787,568
Global Luxury Goods	\$ 1,198,760	\$ 0	\$ 1,198,760
Global Resources	\$ 167,352,287	\$ 76,953,302	\$ 244,305,589
World Precious Minerals	\$ 88,150,877	\$ 274,434,529	\$ 362,585,406
Gold and Precious Metals	\$ 43,112,523	\$ 17,186,045	\$ 60,298,568

In accordance with federal income tax rules, net capital losses and ordinary losses (currency and late year losses) incurred after October 31, within each fund's tax year, are deemed to arise on the first day of the fund's next tax year if the fund elects to defer such losses.

The funds elected to defer losses incurred after October 31, 2024, as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Post October 31, 2024 Capital Loss Deferral</b>	<b>Post October 31, 2024 Ordinary Loss Deferral</b>
Gold and Precious Metals	–	\$ 643,898

A fund may elect to treat part or all of any "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in determining the fund's taxable income, net capital gain, net short-term capital gain, and earnings and profits. The effect of this election is to treat any such "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in characterizing fund distributions for any calendar year. A "qualified late year loss" includes:

- (i) any net capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, or, if there is no such loss, any net long-term capital loss or any net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year ("post-October capital losses"), and
- (ii) the sum of (1) the excess, if any, of (a) specified losses incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, over (b) specified gains incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year and (2) the excess, if any, of (a) ordinary losses incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year, over (b) the ordinary income incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year.

The terms "specified losses" and "specified gains" mean ordinary losses and gains from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of property (including the termination of a position with respect to such property), foreign currency losses and gains, and losses and gains resulting from holding stock in a passive foreign investment company (PFIC) for which a mark-to-market election is in effect. The terms "ordinary losses" and "ordinary income" mean other ordinary losses and income that are not described in the preceding sentence.

A fund's ability to make certain investments may be limited by provisions of the Code that require inclusion of certain unrealized gains or losses in the fund's income for purposes of the Gross Income Test and the Distribution Requirement, and by provisions of the Code that characterize certain income or loss as ordinary income or loss rather than capital gain or loss.

The fund may retain or distribute to shareholders its net capital gain for each taxable year. The fund currently intends to distribute net capital gains. If the fund elects to retain its net capital gain, the fund will be taxed thereon (except to the extent of any available capital loss carryovers) at the corporate income tax rate. If the fund elects to retain its net capital gain, it is expected that the fund also will elect to have shareholders treated as if each received a distribution of its pro rata share of such gain, with the result that each shareholder will be required to report its pro rata share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain, will receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata share of tax paid by the fund on the gain, and will increase the tax basis for its shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

Distributions by the fund that are not paid from earnings and profits will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of (and in reduction of) the shareholder's tax basis in his shares; any excess will be treated as gain from the sale of his shares. Thus, the portion of a distribution that constitutes a return of capital will decrease the shareholder's tax basis in his fund shares (but not below zero), and will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the shareholder for tax purposes on the later sale of such fund shares. Return of capital distributions can occur for a number of reasons including, among others, the fund over-estimates the income to be received from certain investments such as those classified as partnerships or equity REITs.

For federal income tax purposes, debt securities purchased by a fund may be treated as having original issue discount. Original issue discount can generally be defined as the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of a debt obligation over the issue price. Original issue discount is treated as interest earned by the fund for federal income tax purposes, whether or not any income is actually received, and therefore, is subject to the Distribution Requirement. Because a fund will not receive a cash payment of interest, in order to satisfy the Distribution Requirement, a fund may have to sell other securities at a time when it might otherwise have continued to hold them. Original issue discount with respect to tax-exempt obligations generally will be excluded from a fund's taxable income, although such discount will be included in gross income for purposes of the Gross Income Test. Original issue discount is accrued and added to the adjusted tax basis of the securities for purposes of determining gain or loss upon sale or at maturity. Generally, the amount of original issue discount is determined based on a constant yield to maturity, which takes into account the compounding of accrued interest. Under section 1286 of the Code, an investment in a stripped bond or stripped coupon will result in original issue discount. In addition, to the extent that a fund holds zero coupon or deferred interest bonds in its portfolio, or bonds paying interest in the form of additional debt obligations, the fund would recognize income currently under the original issue discount rules even though the fund received no cash payment of interest, and would need to raise cash to satisfy the obligations to distribute such income to shareholders from sales of portfolio securities.

Debt securities may be purchased by a fund at a discount that exceeds the original issue price plus previously accrued original issue discount remaining on the securities, if any, at the time a fund purchases the securities. This discount represents market discount for federal income tax purposes. To the extent that a fund purchases debt securities (including tax exempt bonds) at a market discount, the accounting accretion of such discount may generate taxable income for the fund and its shareholders. In the case of any debt security having a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issue and having market discount, the gain realized on disposition will generally be treated as taxable interest income to the extent it does not exceed the accrued market discount on the security (unless the fund elects to include such accrued market discount in income in the tax year to which it is attributable). Generally, market discount is accrued on a daily basis.

A fund whose portfolio is subject to the market discount rules may be required to defer the deduction of part or all of any net direct interest expense incurred to purchase or carry any debt security (other than a tax exempt obligation) having market discount, unless the fund makes the election to include market discount in income currently.

The funds may purchase debt securities at a premium, *i.e.*, at a purchase price in excess of face amount. With respect to tax-exempt securities, the premium must be amortized to the maturity date but no deduction is allowed for the premium amortization. Instead, the amortized bond premium will reduce the fund's adjusted tax basis in the securities. For taxable securities, the premium may be amortized if the fund so elects. The amortized premium on taxable securities is allowed as a deduction, reduces the fund's basis in the securities, and, generally, must be amortized under a constant yield method.

A fund's investment in lower-rated or unrated debt securities may present issues for the fund if the issuers of these securities default on their obligations because the federal income tax consequences to a holder of such securities are not certain.

Gains from the disposition of commodities, including precious metals, will neither be considered qualifying income for purposes of satisfying the Gross Income Test nor qualifying assets for purposes of satisfying the Asset Value Test, which the fund must continue to satisfy to maintain its status as a regulated investment company. A fund also may be limited in its ability to sell its investments in

commodities and certain ETFs or be forced to sell other investments to generate income due to the Gross Income Test. If a fund does not appropriately limit such investments or if such investments (or the income earned on such investments) were to be recharacterized for U.S. tax purposes, the fund could fail to qualify as a regulated investment company. In lieu of potential disqualification, a fund is permitted to pay a tax for certain failures to satisfy the Asset Value Test or Gross Income Test, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect.

If a fund owns shares in a foreign corporation that is a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes and that fund does not elect alternative tax treatment, that fund may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on part of any “excess distribution” it receives from the PFIC or any gain it derives from the disposition of such shares, even if the fund distributes such income as a taxable dividend to its shareholders. The fund may also be subject to additional tax similar to an interest charge with respect to deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains. Any tax paid by the fund because of its ownership of shares in a PFIC will not lead to any deduction or credit to the fund or any shareholder. Foreign companies are not required to identify themselves as PFICs. Due to various complexities in identifying PFICs, a fund can give no assurances that it will be able to identify portfolio securities in foreign corporations that are PFICs in time to make the elections discussed below.

Rather than being taxed on PFIC income as discussed above, a fund may be eligible to elect alternative tax treatment. If the fund elects to treat the foreign corporation as a “qualified electing fund” under the Code, the fund may be required to include its share of the PFIC’s ordinary income and net capital gains in its income each year, even if this income is not distributed to the fund. Any such income would be subject to the Distribution Requirement even if the fund did not receive any income to distribute. In addition, another election may be available that would involve marking-to-market the fund’s shares in a PFIC at the end of each taxable year (and on certain other dates prescribed in the Code), with the result that unrealized gains are treated as though they were realized. If this election is available and is made, federal income tax at the fund level under the PFIC rules would generally be eliminated, but the fund could, in limited circumstances, incur nondeductible interest charges. A fund’s intention to qualify annually as a regulated investment company may limit its options with respect to shares in a PFIC.

A fund’s transactions, if any, in forward contracts, options, futures contracts and hedged investments may be subject to special provisions of the Code that, among other things, may affect the character of gain and loss realized by the fund (*i.e.*, may affect whether gain or loss is ordinary or capital), accelerate recognition of income to the fund, defer the fund’s losses and affect whether capital gain and loss is characterized as long-term or short-term. These rules could therefore affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also may require a fund to mark-to-market certain types of positions (*i.e.*, treat them as if they were closed out), which may cause the fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which to make distributions in amounts necessary to satisfy the Distribution Requirement for avoiding income and excise taxes.

In general, option premiums received by a fund are not immediately included in the income of the fund. Instead, the premiums are recognized when the option contract expires, the option is exercised by the holder, or the fund transfers or otherwise terminates the option (*e.g.*, through a closing transaction). If an option written by a fund is exercised and the fund sells or delivers the underlying stock, the fund generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to (a) the sum of the strike price and the option premium received by the fund minus (b) the fund’s basis in the stock. Such gain or loss generally will be short-term or long-term depending upon the holding period of the underlying stock. If securities are purchased by a fund pursuant to the exercise of a put option written by it, the fund generally will subtract the premium received from its cost basis in the securities purchased. The gain or loss with respect to any termination of a fund’s obligation under an option other than through the exercise of the option and related sale or delivery of the underlying stock generally will be short-term gain or loss depending on whether the premium income received by the fund is greater or less than the amount paid by the fund (if any) in terminating the transaction. Thus, for example, if an option written by a fund expires unexercised, the fund generally will recognize short-term gain equal to the premium received.

The amount of any realized gain or loss on closing out options on certain stock indices will result in a capital gain or loss for federal income tax purposes. Such options held by a fund at the end of each fiscal year on a broad-based stock index generally are treated under the Code as “Section 1256 contracts” and will be required to be “marked-to-market” for federal income tax purposes. Sixty percent of any net gain or loss recognized on such deemed sales or on any actual sales will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss, and the remainder will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss (“60/40 gain or loss”). Certain other options, futures contracts and options on futures contracts utilized by a fund may also be Section 1256 contracts. Any gains or losses on these Section 1256 contracts held by a fund at the end of each taxable year (and on October 31 of each year for purposes of the 4% excise tax) are “marked-to-market” with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as a 60/40 gain or loss.

A fund’s investments in REITs may result in the fund’s receipt of cash in excess of the REIT’s earnings; if the fund distributes these amounts, these distributions could constitute a return of capital to fund shareholders for federal income tax purposes. Investments in REIT equity securities also may require a fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. To generate sufficient cash to make the requisite distributions, a fund may be required to sell securities in its portfolio (including when it is not advantageous to do so) that it otherwise

would have continued to hold. Dividends received by a fund from a REIT will not qualify for the corporate dividends-received deduction and generally will not constitute qualified dividend income (see “Taxation of the Shareholder” below). The funds may invest in REITs that hold residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs). Under a notice issued by the Internal Revenue Service, a portion of a fund’s income from a REIT that is attributable to the REIT’s residual interest in a REMIC (referred to in the Code as an “excess inclusion”) will be subject to federal income tax in all events. The notice provides that excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as a fund, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such shareholders, with the same consequences as if the shareholders held the related REMIC residual interest directly. In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (a) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (b) will constitute unrelated business taxable income to entities (including a qualified pension plan, an individual retirement account, a 401(k) plan, a Keogh plan or other tax-exempt entity) subject to tax on unrelated business income, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a federal income tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (c) in the case of a foreign shareholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, if at any time during any taxable year a “disqualified organization” (as defined in the Code) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified organization, multiplied by the corporate income tax rate.

Convertible debt is ordinarily treated as a “single property” consisting of a pure debt interest until conversion, after which the investment becomes an equity interest. If the security is issued at a premium (*i.e.*, for cash in excess of the face amount payable on retirement), the creditor-holder may amortize the premium over the life of the bond. If the security is issued for cash at a price below its face amount, the creditor-holder must accrue original issue discount in income over the life of the debt. The creditor-holder’s exercise of the conversion privilege is treated as a nontaxable event. Mandatorily convertible debt (e.g., an exchange traded note or ETN issued in the form of an unsecured obligation that pays a return based on the performance of a specified market index, exchange currency, or commodity) is often, but not always, treated as a contract to buy or sell the reference property rather than debt. Similarly, convertible preferred stock with a mandatory conversion feature is ordinarily, but not always, treated as equity rather than debt. Dividends received generally are qualified dividend income and eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction. In general, conversion of preferred stock for common stock of the same corporation is tax-free. Conversion of preferred stock for cash is a taxable redemption. Any redemption premium for preferred stock that is redeemable by the issuing company might be required to be amortized under original issue discount principles.

## **TAXATION OF THE SHAREHOLDER**

Shareholders will be subject to federal income taxes on distributions made by a fund (other than distributions of exempt-interest dividends paid by the Near-Term Tax Free Fund), whether received in cash or additional shares of the fund. Distributions of net investment income, other than “qualified dividend income,” if any, will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income to the extent of the fund’s earnings and profits. Additionally, any net short-term capital gain in excess of any net long-term capital loss will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. Distributions of “qualified dividend income,” as such term is defined in section 1(h)(11) of the Code (generally dividends received from U.S. domestic corporations and qualified foreign corporations), by a fund to its noncorporate shareholders generally will be taxed at the federal income tax rates applicable to net capital gain, provided certain holding period and other requirements described below are satisfied. Dividends received from REITs and certain foreign corporations generally will not constitute qualified dividend income. Distributions of net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses), if any, will be taxable to noncorporate shareholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain (currently 20%), without regard to how long a shareholder has held shares of the fund. Corporate shareholders are taxed on net capital gain at the same federal income tax rates applicable to ordinary income. Dividends paid by a fund may qualify in part for the 50% dividends-received deduction available to corporate shareholders, provided that certain holding period and other requirements under the Code described below are satisfied. Generally, however, dividends received on most REITs and on stocks of foreign issuers that are held by a fund are not eligible for the dividends-received deduction when distributed to the fund’s corporate shareholders. Since none of the net investment income of the Near-Term Tax Free Fund or the U.S. Government Securities Ultra-Short Bond Fund is expected to arise from dividends on common or preferred stock, none of the funds’ distributions are expected to be treated as qualified dividend income or qualify for the 50% corporate dividends-received deduction.

To be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income, shareholders generally must hold their shares for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date. In order for dividends received by a fund’s shareholders to be treated as qualified dividend income, the fund must also meet holding period and other requirements with respect to such dividend paying stocks it owns. A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income at the fund level if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held for 60 days or fewer during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 90 days or fewer during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date). In addition to the above holding period requirements, a dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the fund or shareholder level), (1) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (2) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or

(3) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of stock of a foreign corporation that is readily tradeable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a PFIC.

For corporate shareholders, a portion of the dividends paid by the Fund may qualify for the 50% corporate dividends-received deduction. The portion of dividends paid by the Fund that so qualifies will be reported by the Fund to shareholders each year and cannot exceed the gross amount of dividends received by the Fund from domestic (U.S.) corporations. The availability of the dividends-received deduction is subject to certain holding period and debt financing restrictions that apply to both the Fund and the investor. Specifically, the amount that the Fund may report as eligible for the dividends-received deduction will be reduced or eliminated if the shares on which the dividends earned by the Fund were debt-financed or held by the Fund for less than a minimum period of time, generally 46 days during a 91-day period beginning 45 days before the stock becomes ex-dividend. Similarly, if your Fund shares are debt-financed or held by you for less than a 46-day period then the dividends-received deduction for Fund dividend on your shares may also be reduced or eliminated. Even if reported as dividends eligible for the dividends-received deduction, all dividends (including any deducted portion) must be included in your alternative minimum taxable income calculation. Income derived by the Fund from investments in derivatives, fixed income and foreign securities generally is not eligible for this treatment.

As discussed above, the Near-Term Tax Free Fund intends to satisfy the requirements in order to pay exempt-interest dividends. If the Near-Term Tax Free Fund satisfies the requirements, to the extent that the Near-Term Tax Free Fund's dividends distributed to shareholders are derived from interest income exempt from federal income tax under section 103(a) of the Code and are designated as "exempt-interest dividends" by the fund, they will be excludable from a shareholder's gross income for federal income tax purposes. Shareholders who are recipients of social security benefits should be aware that exempt-interest dividends received from the fund are includable in their "modified adjusted gross income" for purposes of determining the amount of such social security benefits, if any, that are required to be included in their gross income.

All distributions of investment income during the year will have the same percentage designated as tax-exempt. This method is called the "average annual method." Since the Near-Term Tax Free Fund invests primarily in tax-exempt securities, the percentage is expected to be substantially the same as the amount actually earned during any particular distribution period. Income earned on certain U.S. government obligations is exempt from state and local personal income taxes if earned directly by you. States also grant tax-free status to dividends paid to you from interest earned on direct obligations of the U.S. government, subject in some states to minimum investment or reporting requirements that must be met by the fund. Income on investments by the fund in certain other obligations, such as repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government obligations, commercial paper and federal agency-backed obligations (e.g., Ginnie Mae or Fannie Mae obligations), generally does not qualify for tax-free treatment. The rules on exclusion of this income are different for corporations.

To the extent that exempt-interest dividends are derived from interest on obligations of a state or its political subdivisions, or from interest on qualifying U.S. territorial obligations (including qualifying obligations of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam), they also may be exempt from that state's personal income taxes. Shareholders in a qualified fund of funds that receive exempt-interest dividends should consult their own tax advisors as to whether such dividends are exempt from personal income tax in their state of residence. In addition, most states do not grant tax-free treatment to interest on state and municipal securities of other states.

Taxable distributions generally are included in a shareholder's gross income for the taxable year in which they are received. However, dividends declared in October, November or December and made payable to shareholders of record in such a month will be deemed to have been received on December 31, if a fund pays the dividends during the following January.

Distributions by a fund will result in a reduction in the net asset value of fund shares. Should a distribution reduce the net asset value below a shareholder's cost basis, such distribution nevertheless may be taxable to the shareholder as ordinary income or long-term capital gain, even though, from an investment standpoint, it may constitute a partial return of capital. In particular, investors should be careful to consider the tax implications of buying shares of such funds just prior to a distribution. The price of such shares purchased at that time includes the amount of any forthcoming distribution. Those investors purchasing the fund shares just before a distribution may receive a return of investment upon distribution that will nevertheless be taxable to them.

A shareholder of a fund should be aware that a redemption of shares (including any exchange into another U.S. Global Investors Fund) is a taxable event and, accordingly, a capital gain or loss may be recognized. The gain or loss will generally be long-term if the shares were held more than one year and short-term if the shares were held less than one year. If a shareholder of the Near-Term Tax Free Fund receives an exempt-interest dividend with respect to any share and such share has been held for six months or less, any loss on the redemption or exchange will be disallowed to the extent of such exempt-interest dividend, unless the fund declares exempt-interest dividends on a daily basis in an amount equal to at least 90% of its net tax-exempt interest and distributes such dividends on a monthly or more frequent basis. Similarly, if a shareholder of a fund receives a distribution taxable as long-term capital gain with respect to shares of the fund and redeems or exchanges shares before he has held them for more than six months, any loss on the redemption or exchange (not otherwise

disallowed as attributable to an exempt-interest dividend) will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the long-term capital gain recognized. All or a portion of any loss a shareholder realizes on a sale or exchange of shares will be disallowed if the shareholder acquires other shares of the fund (whether through the automatic reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) or substantially identical stock or securities within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the shareholder's sale or exchange of the shares. In such case, the shareholder's tax basis in the shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Capital losses may be subject to limitations on their use by a shareholder.

Under Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to the Fund's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

An additional 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on certain net investment income (including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from a fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of fund shares) of U.S. individuals, estates and trusts to the extent that such person's "modified adjusted gross income" (in the case of an individual) or "adjusted gross income" (in the case of an estate or trust) exceeds a threshold amount. Net investment income does not include exempt-interest dividends. This Medicare tax, if applicable, is reported by you on and paid with your federal income tax return.

The Near-Term Tax Free Fund may invest in private activity bonds. Interest on private activity bonds is generally subject to the federal alternative minimum tax (AMT), although the interest continues to be excludable from gross income for other purposes. AMT is a supplemental tax designed to ensure that taxpayers pay at least a minimum amount of tax on their income, even if they make substantial use of certain tax deductions and exclusions (referred to as "tax preference items"). Interest from private activity bonds is one of the tax preference items that is added into income from other sources for purposes of determining whether a taxpayer is subject to the AMT and the amount of any tax to be paid. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the possible application of the AMT to their tax situation.

Opinions relating to the validity of tax-exempt securities and the exemption of interest thereon from federal income tax are rendered by recognized bond counsel to the issuers. Neither the Adviser's nor the Trust's counsel makes any review of proceedings relating to the issuance of tax-exempt securities or the basis of such opinions. Failure of the issuer of a tax-exempt security to comply with certain legal or contractual requirements relating to a municipal security could cause interest on the municipal security, as well as fund distributions derived from this interest, to become taxable, perhaps retroactively to the date the municipal security was issued. In such a case, a fund may be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service and send to shareholders amended Forms 1099 for a prior taxable year in order to report additional taxable income. This, in turn, could require shareholders to file amended federal and state income tax returns for such prior year to report and pay tax and interest on their pro rata share of the additional amount of taxable income.

Interest on indebtedness incurred by shareholders to purchase or carry shares of the Near-Term Tax Free Fund will generally not be deductible for federal income tax purposes. Under rules issued by the Internal Revenue Service to determine when borrowed funds are used for the purpose of purchasing or carrying particular assets, the purchase of shares may be considered to have been made with borrowed funds even though the borrowed funds are not directly traceable to the purchase of shares.

Each fund is required in certain circumstances to withhold federal income tax ("backup withholding") at a current rate of 24% on reportable payments, including dividends (which includes exempt-interest dividends), capital gain distributions and the proceeds of sales or other dispositions of the fund's shares, paid to certain shareholders who do not furnish the fund with their correct social security number or other taxpayer identification number and make certain certifications, or who are otherwise subject to backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from payments made to a shareholder may be refunded or credited against such shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Non-U.S. investors (shareholders who, as to the U.S., are nonresident alien individuals, foreign trusts or estates, foreign corporations, or foreign partnerships) may be subject to U.S. withholding and estate tax and are subject to special U.S. tax certification requirements. Non-U.S. investors should consult their tax advisors about the applicability of U.S. tax withholding and the use of the appropriate forms to certify their status.

The U.S. imposes a flat 30% withholding tax (or a withholding tax at a lower treaty rate) on U.S. source dividends, including on income dividends paid to you by the fund, subject to certain exemptions described below. However, notwithstanding such exemptions from U.S. withholding at the source, any dividends and distributions of income and capital gains, including the proceeds from the sale of your fund shares, will be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 24% if you fail to properly certify that you are not a U.S. person.

In general, capital gain dividends reported by the fund to shareholders as paid from its net long-term capital gains, other than long-term capital gains realized on disposition of U.S. real property interests (see the discussion below), are not subject to U.S. withholding tax unless you are a nonresident alien individual present in the U.S. for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year.

In general, exempt-interest dividends reported by the fund to shareholders as paid from net tax-exempt income are not subject to U.S. withholding tax.

Generally, dividends reported by the fund to shareholders as interest-related dividends and paid from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources are not subject to U.S. withholding tax. “Qualified interest income” includes, in general, U.S. source (1) bank deposit interest, (2) short-term original discount, (3) interest (including original issue discount, market discount, or acquisition discount) on an obligation that is in registered form, unless it is earned on an obligation issued by a corporation or partnership in which the fund is a 10-percent shareholder or is contingent interest, and (4) any interest-related dividend from another regulated investment company. Similarly, short-term capital gain dividends reported by the fund to shareholders as paid from its net short-term capital gains, other than short-term capital gains realized on the disposition of certain U.S. real property interests (see the discussion below), are not subject to U.S. withholding tax unless you were a nonresident alien individual present in the U.S. for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year. The fund reserves the right to not report interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends. Additionally, the fund’s reporting of interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends may not be passed through to shareholders by intermediaries who have assumed tax reporting responsibilities for this income in managed or omnibus accounts due to systems limitations or operational constraints.

Ordinary dividends paid by the fund to non-U.S. investors on the income earned on portfolio investments in (i) the stock of domestic and foreign corporations and (ii) the debt of foreign issuers continue to be subject to U.S. withholding tax. Foreign shareholders may be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% on the income resulting from an election to pass through foreign tax credits to shareholders, but may not be able to claim a credit or deduction with respect to the withholding tax for the foreign tax treated as having been paid by them.

If the income from the fund is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a foreign shareholder, then ordinary income dividends, capital gain dividends and any gains realized upon the sale or redemption of shares of the fund will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. citizens or domestic corporations and require the filing of a nonresident U.S. income tax return.

The Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (“FIRPTA”) makes non-U.S. persons subject to U.S. tax on disposition of a U.S. real property interest (“USRPI”) as if he or she were a U.S. person. Such gain is sometimes referred to as FIRPTA gain. The fund may invest in equity securities of corporations that invest in USRPI, including U.S. REITs, which may trigger FIRPTA gain to the fund’s non-U.S. shareholders.

The Code provides a look-through rule for distributions of FIRPTA gain when a RIC is classified as a qualified investment entity. A RIC will be classified as a qualified investment entity if, in general, 50% or more of the RIC’s assets consist of interests in U.S. REITs and other U.S. real property holding corporations (“USRPHC”). If a RIC is a qualified investment entity and the non-U.S. shareholder owns more than 5% of a class of fund shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the FIRPTA distribution, the FIRPTA distribution to the non-U.S. shareholder is treated as gain from the disposition of a USRPI, causing the distribution to be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the corporate income tax rate (unless reduced by future regulations), and requiring the non-U.S. shareholder to file a nonresident U.S. income tax return. In addition, even if the non-U.S. shareholder does not own more than 5% of a class of fund shares, but the fund is a qualified investment entity, the FIRPTA distribution will be taxable as ordinary dividends (rather than as a capital gain or short-term capital gain dividend) subject to withholding at 30% or lower treaty rate.

Because the fund expects to invest less than 50% of its assets at all times, directly or indirectly, in U.S. real property interests, the fund expects that neither gain on the sale or redemption of fund shares nor fund dividends and distributions would be subject to FIRPTA reporting and tax withholding.

Transfers by gift of shares of the fund by a foreign shareholder who is a nonresident alien individual will not be subject to U.S. federal gift tax. An individual who, at the time of death, is a non-U.S. shareholder will nevertheless be subject to U.S. federal estate tax with respect to fund shares at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens and residents, unless a treaty exemption applies. If a treaty exemption is available, a decedent’s estate may nonetheless need to file a U.S. estate tax return to claim the exemption in order to obtain a U.S. federal transfer certificate. The transfer certificate will identify the property (*i.e.*, fund shares) as to which the U.S. federal estate tax lien has been released. In the absence of a treaty, there is a \$13,000 statutory estate tax credit (equivalent to U.S. situs assets with a value of \$60,000). For estates with U.S. situs assets of not more than \$60,000, the fund may accept, in lieu of a transfer certificate, an affidavit from an appropriate individual evidencing that decedent’s U.S. situs assets are below this threshold amount.

Special U.S. tax certification requirements may apply to non-U.S. shareholders both to avoid U.S. backup withholding imposed at a rate of 24% and to obtain the benefits of any treaty between the U.S. and the shareholder's country of residence. In general, if you are a non-U.S. shareholder, you must provide a Form W-8 BEN (or other applicable Form W-8) to establish that you are not a U.S. person, to claim that you are the beneficial owner of the income and, if applicable, to claim a reduced rate of, or exemption from, withholding as a resident of a country with which the U.S. has an income tax treaty. A Form W-8 BEN provided without a U.S. taxpayer identification number will remain in effect for a period beginning on the date signed and ending on the last day of the third succeeding calendar year unless an earlier change of circumstances makes the information on the form incorrect. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding.

The tax consequences to a non-U.S. shareholder entitled to claim the benefits of an applicable tax treaty may be different from those described herein. Non-U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the fund, including the applicability of foreign tax.

Under FATCA, the fund will be required to withhold a 30% tax on income dividends paid by the fund to certain foreign entities, referred to as foreign financial institutions ("FFI") or non-financial foreign entities ("NFFE"). After Dec. 31, 2018, FATCA withholding also would have applied to certain capital gain distributions, return of capital distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of fund shares; however, based on proposed regulations issued by the IRS, which can be relied upon currently, such withholding is no longer required unless final regulations provide otherwise (which is not expected). The FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, if it reports certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reporting information relating to them. The U.S. Treasury has negotiated intergovernmental agreements ("IGA") with certain countries and is in various stages of negotiations with a number of other foreign countries with respect to one or more alternative approaches to implement FATCA; an entity in one of those countries may be required to comply with the terms of an IGA instead of U.S. Treasury regulations.

An FFI can avoid FATCA withholding if it is deemed compliant or by becoming a "participating FFI," which requires the FFI to enter into a U.S. tax compliance agreement with the IRS under section 1471(b) of the Code ("FFI agreement") under which it agrees to verify, report and disclose certain of its U.S. accountholders and meet certain other specified requirements. The FFI will either report the specified information about the U.S. accounts to the IRS, or, to the government of the FFI's country of residence (pursuant to the terms and conditions of applicable law and an applicable IGA entered into between the U.S. and the FFI's country of residence), which will, in turn, report the specified information to the IRS. An FFI that is resident in a country that has entered into an IGA with the U.S. to implement FATCA will be exempt from FATCA withholding provided that the FFI shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement.

An NFFE that is the beneficial owner of a payment from the fund can avoid the FATCA withholding tax generally by certifying that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or by providing the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner. The NFFE will report the information to the fund or other applicable withholding agent, which will, in turn, report the information to the IRS.

Such foreign shareholders also may fall into certain exempt, excepted or deemed compliant categories as established by U.S. Treasury regulations, IGAs, and other guidance regarding FATCA. An FFI or NFFE that invests in the fund will need to provide the fund with documentation properly certifying the entity's status under FATCA in order to avoid FATCA withholding. Non-U.S. investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the impact of these requirements on their investment in the fund. The requirements imposed by FATCA are different from, and in addition to, the U.S. tax certification rules to avoid backup withholding described above. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of these requirements to their own situation.

## **TAX BASIS REPORTING**

A fund is required to report to you and the IRS annually on Form 1099-B the cost basis of shares purchased or acquired on or after Jan. 1, 2012 where the cost basis of the shares is known by the fund (referred to as "covered shares") and that are disposed of after that date. However, cost basis reporting is not required for certain shareholders, including shareholders investing in the fund through a tax-advantaged retirement account, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account.

When required to report cost basis, the fund will calculate it using the fund's default method of average cost, unless you instruct the fund to use a different calculation method. For additional information regarding the fund's available cost basis reporting methods, including its default method, please contact the fund. If you hold your fund shares through a broker (or other nominee), please contact that broker (nominee) with respect to reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

The IRS permits the use of several methods to determine the cost basis of mutual fund shares. The method used will determine which specific shares are deemed to be sold when there are multiple purchases on different dates at differing share prices, and the entire position

is not sold at one time. The fund does not recommend any particular method of determining cost basis, and the use of other methods may result in more favorable tax consequences for some shareholders. It is important that you consult with your tax advisor to determine which method is best for you and then notify the fund if you intend to utilize a method other than the fund's default method for covered shares. If you do not notify the fund of your elected cost basis method upon the initial purchase into your account, the default method will be applied to your covered shares.

The fund will compute and report the cost basis of your fund shares sold or exchanged by taking into account all of the applicable adjustments to cost basis and holding periods as required by the Code and Treasury regulations for purposes of reporting these amounts to you and the IRS. However the fund is not required to, and in many cases the fund does not possess the information to, take all possible basis, holding period or other adjustments into account in reporting cost basis information to you. Therefore, shareholders should carefully review the cost basis information provided by the fund.

## **CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS - "SECTION 988" GAINS OR LOSSES**

Under the Code, gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates that occur between the time a fund accrues income or other receivables, or accrues expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time a fund actually collects such receivables or pays such liabilities are generally treated as ordinary income or ordinary loss. Similarly, gains or losses from the disposition of foreign currencies or from the disposition of securities denominated in a foreign currency attributable to fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency between the date of acquisition of the currency or security and the date of disposition also are treated as ordinary gain or loss. These gains or losses, referred to under the Code as "section 988" gains or losses, increase or decrease the amount of a fund's net investment income (which includes, among other things, dividends, interest and net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses, net of expenses) available to be distributed to its shareholders as ordinary income, rather than increasing or decreasing the amount of the fund's net capital gain. If section 988 losses exceed such other net investment income during a taxable year, any distributions made by the fund could be recharacterized as a return of capital to shareholders, rather than as an ordinary dividend, reducing each shareholder's basis in his fund shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed such shareholder's basis, they will be treated as a gain from the sale of shares. Certain gains or losses with respect to forward foreign currency contracts, over-the-counter options on foreign currencies and certain options traded on foreign exchanges will also be treated as section 988 gains or losses.

Forward currency contracts and certain options entered into by a fund may create "straddles" for U.S. federal income tax purposes and this may affect the character of gains or losses realized by the fund on forward currency contracts or on the underlying securities and cause losses to be deferred. Transactions in forward currency contracts may also result in the loss of the holding period of underlying securities. A fund may also be required to "mark-to-market" certain positions in its portfolio (*i.e.*, treat them as if they were sold at year end). This could cause the fund to recognize income without having the cash to meet the Distribution Requirement.

## **FOREIGN TAXES**

Income received by a fund from sources within any countries outside the United States in which the issuers of securities purchased by the fund are located may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries.

Under the Code, if more than 50% of the value of a fund's total assets at the close of its taxable year consists of stocks or securities of foreign corporations, the fund will be eligible for, and intends to file, an election with the Internal Revenue Service to "pass-through" to the fund's shareholders the amount of such foreign income and withholding taxes paid by the fund. If the fund makes such an election and obtains a refund of foreign taxes paid by the fund in a prior year, the fund may be eligible to reduce the amount of foreign taxes reported by the fund to its shareholders, generally by the amount of the foreign taxes refunded, for the year in which the refund is received. A shareholder then will be required to: (1) include in gross income (in addition to taxable dividends actually received) his pro rata share of such foreign taxes paid by the fund; (2) treat his pro rata share of such foreign taxes as having been paid by him; and (3) either deduct his pro rata share of such foreign taxes in computing his taxable income or use it as a foreign tax credit against his U.S. federal income taxes, subject in both cases to certain limitations. No deduction for such foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions or who is subject to the alternative minimum tax. Each shareholder will be notified after the close of the fund's taxable year whether the foreign taxes paid by the fund will "pass-through" for that year and, if so, such notification will include the shareholder's proportionate share of foreign source income and foreign taxes paid.

The amount of foreign taxes for which a shareholder may claim a credit in any year will be subject to an overall limitation that is applied separately to "passive income," which includes, among other types of income, dividends and interest.

The foregoing is only a general description of the foreign tax credit under current law. Because applicability of the credit depends on the particular circumstances of each shareholder, shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisors.

The foregoing discussion relates only to generally applicable federal income tax provisions in effect as of the date of the prospectus and statement of additional information. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the status of distributions from the fund in their own states and localities.

#### **FUND ACCOUNTANT AND ADMINISTRATOR**

Apex Fund Services, 190 Middle Street, Suite 101, Portland, Maine 04101 serves as fund accountant and administrator for all funds of the Trust described in this Statement of Additional information.

#### **CUSTODIAN**

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., 50 Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, serves as custodian for all funds of the Trust described in this Statement of Additional Information. With respect to the funds that own foreign securities, Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. may hold securities of the funds outside the United States pursuant to sub-custody arrangements separately approved by the Trust.

#### **TRANSFER AGENT**

Apex Fund Services, 190 Middle Street, Suite 101, Portland, Maine 04101, serves as transfer agent for all funds of the Trust described in this Statement of Additional Information.

#### **DISTRIBUTOR**

Foreside Fund Services, LLC (the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC (d/b/a ACA Group), is the distributor (also known as principal underwriter) of the shares of the funds and is located at 190 Middle Street, Suite 401, Portland, Maine 04101. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA").

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, are hereby incorporated by reference from the funds' Form N-CSR dated December 31, 2024. A copy of the financial statements will be provided, free of charge, upon request to Apex Fund Services, c/o U.S. Global Investors Funds, P.O. Box 588, Portland, Maine 04112, or 1-800-873-8637.

#### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM AND LEGAL COUNSEL**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1835 Market Street, Suite 310, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust. The independent registered public accounting firm audits and reports on the funds' annual financial statements, reviews certain regulatory reports, and may perform other professional accounting and auditing services to the extent approved by the Audit Committee of the Trust. Cohen & Co Advisory, LLC, an affiliate of Cohen & Company, Ltd., reviews the funds' federal income tax returns and may perform other professional tax and advisory services to the extent approved by the Audit Committee of the Trust. Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, 2000 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, serves as legal counsel to the Trust and to the independent trustees of the Trust.