

BOULDER TOTAL RETURN FUND INC

Form N-CSRS

August 08, 2011

**Table of Contents**

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED**

**MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act File Number:

811-07390

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Fund Administrative Services

2344 Spruce Street, Suite A

Boulder, CO 80302

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)(Zip Code)

Fund Administrative Services

2344 Spruce Street, Suite A

Boulder, CO 80302

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code:

(303) 444-5483

Date of Fiscal Year End: November 30

Date of Reporting Period: May 31, 2011

**Table of Contents**

**Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.**

The Report to Stockholders is attached herewith.

**Table of Contents**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Letter from the Advisers</u>	1
<u>Financial Data</u>	3
<u>Portfolio of Investments</u>	4
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</u>	8
<u>Statement of Operations</u>	9
<u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets</u>	10
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	12
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	15
<u>Additional Information</u>	25
<u>Summary of Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	27

## Table of Contents

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Letter from the Advisers  
May 31, 2011

Dear Stockholders:

For the 6 month period ending May 31, 2011, the Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc. (the Fund ) returned 7.2% on net assets. This compared to 15.0% returned by the S&P 500 during the same period. The table below shows the historic returns for the Fund for various periods ending May 31, 2011:

					Three	Five	Ten	Since
					Years*	Years*	Years**	August
		3 Months	6 Months	One Year	Years*	Years*	Years**	1999***
Boulder Total Return								
Fund (NAV)		-0.6%	7.2%	27.1%	-0.2%	3.0%	4.6%	6.2%
Boulder Total Return								
Fund (Market)		-2.7%	8.7%	29.3%	-3.5%	3.2%	4.0%	6.3%
S&P 500 Index		1.8%	15.0%	26.0%	0.9%	3.3%	2.6%	2.0%
Dow Jones								
Industrial Average		3.5%	15.6%	27.3%	2.8%	5.2%	3.9%	3.6%
NASDAQ Composite		2.1%	14.0%	26.9%	5.0%	6.4%	3.8%	1.0%

\* Annualized

\*\* Annualized. Does not include the effect of dilution on non-participating stockholders from the July 2003 rights offering.

\*\*\*

## Edgar Filing: BOULDER TOTAL RETURN FUND INC - Form N-CSRS

*Annualized since August 1999, when the current Advisers became investment advisers to the Fund. Does not include the effect of dilution on non-participating stockholders from the July 2003 rights offering.*

*The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate and shares, if sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted.*

The Fund's largest holdings returned the following for the 6-month period ended May 31, 2011: Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., in which the Fund owns a combined \$118.3 million stake (37.1% of the Fund's assets) between the Class A and Class B shares, returned -1.2% on Class A and -0.8% on Class B; Yum! Brands, Inc., a \$60.0 million stake (18.8% of the Fund's assets), returned 10.5%; Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., a \$20.4 million stake (6.4% of the Fund's assets), returned 2.1%; Johnson & Johnson, a \$14.5 million stake (4.6% of the Fund's assets), returned 9.3%; and Cohen & Steers Infrastructure Fund, a closed-end fund in which the Fund owns a \$13.6 million stake (4.3% of the Fund's assets), returned 13.8%. From a price appreciation standpoint, the Fund's investment in Pfizer Inc. was up 31.6% for the period, W.P. Carey & Co. was up 29.5%, and Philip Morris International, Inc. was up 26.1%.

**Table of Contents**

Letter from the Advisers  
May 31, 2011

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

On the negative side, Alliance Bernstein Holding, LP, in which the Fund owns a \$3.5 million stake (1.1% of the Fund's assets), returned -9.3% during the period. Other detractors from performance included, Midland Holdings, Ltd., a Hong Kong real estate company, which returned -8.4% on market price and Energy Transfer Partners, LP which returned -6.2% for the period.

Since December 1, 2010, we made a new investment in Pengrowth Energy Corp. (PGH). We also added to our positions in Alliance Bernstein Holdings (AB), Cheung Kong Holdings (CHK), Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), and PPL Corp (PPL). We anticipate making additional new investments as opportunities arise from time to time, although, because of the Fund's diversification requirements, such positions will be on the smaller side relative to our earlier investments (e.g., not greater than 4% of the Fund's assets at the time of purchase). As of May 31, 2011, the Fund still held a generous cash position, \$17.6 million (5.5% of the Fund's assets).

Thank you for your continued confidence in the Fund. We look forward to serving the Fund's stockholders in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Miller

President

*The views and opinions in the preceding commentary are subject to change. This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific point in time, should not be relied upon as investment advice and is not intended to predict or depict performance of any investment.*

**Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Financial Data  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

**Per Share of Common Stock**

	Net Asset	NYSE	Dividend
	Value	Closing Price	Paid
11/30/10	\$ 18.66	\$ 15.52	\$ 0.00
12/31/10	18.93	15.52	0.00
1/31/11	19.07	15.95	0.00
2/28/11	20.13	17.33	0.00
3/31/11	19.74	16.76	0.00
4/30/11	20.36	16.96	0.00
5/31/11	20.01	16.87	0.00

**INVESTMENTS AS A % OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK**



**Table of Contents**

Portfolio of Investments  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Shares/

Principal

Amount	Description	Value (Note 1)
<b>LONG TERM INVESTMENTS 94.3%</b>		
<b>DOMESTIC COMMON STOCKS 82.0%</b>		
<b>Coal 0.2%</b>		
21,000	Penn Virginia Resource Partners L.P.	\$543,270
<b>Construction Machinery 2.0%</b>		
60,000	Caterpillar, Inc.	6,348,000
<b>Diversified 37.1%</b>		
690	Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., Class A*	81,954,750
460,000	Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., Class B*	36,372,200
		118,326,950
<b>Diversified Financial Services 1.3%</b>		
167,000	AllianceBernstein Holding L.P.	3,476,940
5,700	Franklin Resources, Inc.	738,606
		4,215,546
<b>Electric Utilities 1.2%</b>		
17,500	Black Hills Corp.	542,850
14,340	FirstEnergy Corp.	639,851
60,000	PPL Corp.	1,691,400
16,600	Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc.	556,100
12,400	SCANA Corp.	504,308
		3,934,509
<b>Gas 0.2%</b>		
12,000	Inergy L.P.	445,080
<b>Healthcare Products &amp; Services 4.6%</b>		
216,000	Johnson & Johnson	14,534,640
<b>Manufacturing 0.2%</b>		
8,000	3M Co.	755,040
<b>Pharmaceuticals 0.8%</b>		
123,300	Pfizer, Inc.	2,644,785
<b>Pipelines 0.6%</b>		
15,000	Boardwalk Pipeline Partners L.P.	436,500
19,000	Energy Transfer Partners L.P.	902,690
13,700	Enterprise Products Partners L.P.	570,468
		1,909,658



**Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Portfolio of Investments  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Shares/

Principal

Amount	Description	Value (Note 1)
<b>Real Estate 0.2%</b>		
17,300	WP Carey & Co. LLC	\$663,282
<b>Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) 0.9%</b>		
16,400	HCP, Inc.	622,216
11,500	Health Care REIT, Inc.	611,685
22,000	Healthcare Realty Trust, Inc.	484,440
14,450	Nationwide Health Properties, Inc.	632,910
16,300	Realty Income Corp.	572,782
		2,924,033
<b>Registered Investment Companies (RICs) 4.5%</b>		
736,836	Cohen & Steers Infrastructure Fund, Inc.	13,557,782
45,500	RMR Asia Pacific Real Estate Fund	812,175
		14,369,957
<b>Retail 28.0%</b>		
72,500	The Home Depot, Inc.	2,630,300
140,000	Walgreen Co.	6,108,200
370,000	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	20,431,400
1,085,000	Yum! Brands, Inc.	60,022,200
		89,192,100
<b>Tobacco Products 0.2%</b>		
9,700	Philip Morris International, Inc.	695,975
<b>TOTAL DOMESTIC COMMON STOCKS</b>		
(Cost \$129,988,697)		261,502,825
<b>FOREIGN COMMON STOCKS 11.3%</b>		
<b>Beverages 4.8%</b>		
75,000	Diageo PLC, Sponsored ADR	6,381,750
60,000	Heineken Holding NV	3,147,306
95,117	Heineken NV	5,724,431
		15,253,487
<b>Diversified Financial Services 0.0%<sup>(1)</sup></b>		
10,500	Guoco Group, Ltd.	131,497
<b>Electric Utilities 0.1%</b>		
4,500	RWE AG	262,470

**Table of Contents**

Portfolio of Investments  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Shares/ Principal Amount	Description	Value (Note 1)
<b>Food 0.4%</b>		
20,000	Nestle SA	\$1,283,855
<b>Oil &amp; Gas 0.5%</b>		
80,000	Pengrowth Energy Corp.	1,055,200
8,000	Transocean, Ltd.	554,480
		1,609,680
<b>Real Estate 4.2%</b>		
529,500	Cheung Kong Holdings, Ltd.	8,285,618
104,500	Henderson Land Development Co., Ltd.	709,445
6,156,000	Midland Holdings, Ltd.	4,305,919
		13,300,982
<b>Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) 1.3%</b>		
4,779,336	Kiwi Income Property Trust	4,098,916
<b>TOTAL FOREIGN COMMON STOCKS</b>		
(Cost \$24,942,002)		35,940,887
<b>FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BONDS 1.0%</b>		
3,863,000 NZD	New Zealand Treasury Bonds, 6.000% due 11/15/2011	3,233,909
<b>TOTAL FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BONDS</b>		
(Amortized Cost \$2,851,555)		3,233,909
<b>TOTAL LONG TERM INVESTMENTS</b>		
(Cost \$157,782,254)		300,677,621
<b>SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS 5.5%</b>		
<b>MONEY MARKET FUNDS 5.5%</b>		
1,171,460	Dreyfus Treasury Cash Management Money Market Fund, Institutional Class, 7-Day Yield - 0.010%	1,171,460

**Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Portfolio of Investments  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Shares/

Principal

Amount	Description	Value (Note 1)
16,400,000	JPMorgan Prime Money Markey Fund, 7-Day Yield -0.102%	\$16,400,000
		17,571,460
TOTAL MONEY MARKET FUNDS		
(Cost \$17,571,460)		17,571,460
TOTAL SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS		
(Cost \$17,571,460)		17,571,460
TOTAL INVESTMENTS 99.8%		
(Cost \$175,353,714)		318,249,081
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 0.2%		755,066
TOTAL NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON AND		
PREFERRED STOCK 100.0%		319,004,147
TAXABLE AUCTION MARKET PREFERRED STOCK (AMPS)		
REDEMPTION VALUE PLUS ACCRUED DIVIDENDS		(72,161,067)
TOTAL NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK		\$246,843,080

\* Non-income producing security.

(1) Less than 0.05% of Total Net Assets Available to Common and Preferred Stock.

Percentages are stated as a percent of the Total Net Assets Available to Common and Preferred Stock.

**Common Abbreviations:**

ADR - American Depositary Receipt.

AG - Aktiengesellschaft is a German term that refers to a corporation that is limited by shares, i.e., owned by shareholders.

L.P. - Limited Partnership.

Ltd. - Limited.

NV - Naamloze Vennootschap is the Dutch term for a public limited liability corporation.

NZD - New Zealand Dollar.

SA - Generally designates corporations in various countries, mostly those employing the civil law. This translates literally in all languages mentioned as anonymous company.

# Edgar Filing: BOULDER TOTAL RETURN FUND INC - Form N-CSRS

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

Semi-Annual Report | May 31, 2011

7

**Table of Contents**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

**ASSETS:**

Investments, at value (Cost \$175,353,714) (Note 1)	\$ 318,249,081
Foreign Currency, at value (Cost \$711,535)	721,943
Dividends and interest receivable	515,944
Prepaid expenses and other assets	49,027
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>319,535,995</b>

**LIABILITIES:**

Investment co-advisory fees payable (Note 2)	343,238
Legal and audit fees payable	81,344
Administration and co-administration fees payable (Note 2)	59,663
Custody fees	14,380
Printing fees payable	2,026
Directors' fees and expenses payable (Note 2)	141
Accrued expenses and other payables	31,056
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>531,848</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS</b>	<b>\$ 319,004,147</b>

**TAXABLE AUCTION MARKET PREFERRED STOCK:**

\$0.01 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized, 721 shares outstanding, liquidation preference of \$100,000 per share (Note 5)	72,100,000
Accrued dividends on Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock	61,067
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS)</b>	<b>\$ 246,843,080</b>

**NET ASSETS (APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS) CONSIST OF:**

Par value of common stock (Note 4)	\$ 123,387
Paid-in capital in excess of par value of common stock	123,514,906
Undistributed net investment income	98,472
Accumulated net realized loss on investments sold and foreign currency related transactions	(19,801,363)
Net unrealized appreciation on investments and foreign currency transactions	142,907,678
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS)</b>	<b>\$ 246,843,080</b>

Net Asset Value, \$246,843,080/12,338,660 common stock outstanding	\$ 20.01
--	----------

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## Table of Contents

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Statement of Operations  
For the Six Months Ended May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

### INVESTMENT INCOME:

Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes \$38,298)	\$ 3,115,775
Interest and other income	73,548
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>3,189,323</b>

### EXPENSES:

Investment co-advisory fees (Note 2)	1,963,438
Administration and co-administration fees (Note 2)	341,502
Directors' fees and expenses (Note 2)	50,874
Legal and audit fees	44,080
Preferred stock broker commissions and auction agent fees	25,825
Insurance expense	22,922
Custody fees	21,883
Printing fees	17,636
Transfer agency fees	9,032
Other	33,837
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,531,029</b>
<b>Net Investment Income</b>	<b>658,294</b>

### REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN/(LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS:

Net realized gain/(loss) on:	
Investment securities	(1,405,371)
Foreign currency related transactions	691,325
	(714,046)
Net change in unrealized appreciation on:	
Investment securities	17,139,868
Foreign currency related transactions	17,681
	17,157,549
<b>NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>16,443,503</b>

### PREFERRED STOCK TRANSACTIONS:

Distributions from net investment income	(545,698)
<b>Total Preferred Stock Transactions</b>	<b>(545,698)</b>

### NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS

\$ 16,556,099

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



**Table of Contents**

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

	<b>For the Six Months Ended May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>For the Year Ended November 30, 2010</b>
<b>OPERATIONS:</b>		
Net investment income	\$ 658,294	\$ 850,965
Net realized gain/(loss) on investments	(714,046)	3,480
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments and foreign currency transactions	17,157,549	42,410,491
	17,101,797	43,264,936
<b>PREFERRED STOCK TRANSACTIONS (NOTE 5):</b>		
Distributions from net investment income	(545,698)	(572,570)
Distributions from tax return of capital		(566,147)
Gain on redemption of Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock		508,000
<b>Total Preferred Stock Transactions</b>	(545,698)	(630,717)
<b>Net Increase in Net Assets Applicable to Common Stockholders Resulting from Operations</b>	16,556,099	42,634,219
<b>REDEMPTION OF TAXABLE AUCTION MARKET PREFERRED STOCK (PAR VALUE)</b>		
		(2,800,000)
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Beginning of period	302,386,981	262,552,762
End of period (including undistributed/(overdistributed) net investment income of \$98,472 and \$(14,124), respectively)	318,943,080	302,386,981
Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock, Par Value	(72,100,000)	(72,100,000)
Net Assets Applicable to Common Stockholders	\$ 246,843,080	\$ 230,286,981

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Table of Contents**

*INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK PAGE*

## **Table of Contents**

Financial Highlights

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Contained below is selected data for a share of common stock outstanding, total investment return, ratios to average net assets and other supplemental data for the period indicated. This information has been determined based upon information provided in the financial statements and market price data for the Fund's shares.

### **OPERATING PERFORMANCE:**

Net asset value - Beginning of Period

### **INCOME/(LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:**

Net investment income<sup>(a)</sup>

Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on investments

### **Total from Investment Operations**

### **PREFERRED STOCK TRANSACTIONS**

Dividends paid from net investment income<sup>(a)</sup>

Distributions paid from net realized capital gains<sup>(a)</sup>

Distributions paid from tax return of capital<sup>(a)</sup>

Gain on redemption of AMPS\*

### **Total Preferred Stock Transactions**

### **Net Increase/(Decrease) from Operations Applicable to Common Stock**

### **DISTRIBUTIONS: COMMON STOCK**

Dividends paid from net investment income

Distributions paid from net realized capital gains

Distributions paid from tax return of capital

### **Total Distributions Paid to Common Stockholders**

### **Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Asset Value**

Common Share Net Asset Value - End of Period

Common Share Market Value - End of Period

Total Return, Common Share Net Asset Value<sup>(b)</sup>

Total Return, Common Share Market Value<sup>(b)</sup>

### **RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS:<sup>(c)</sup>**

Net Operating Expenses

Net Investment Income/(Loss)

### **SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:**

Portfolio turnover rate

Net Assets Applicable to Common Stockholders, End of period (000's)

Number of Common Shares Outstanding, End of period (000's)

Ratio of Operating Expenses to Total Average Net Assets including AMPS<sup>(c)\*</sup>

**Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Financial Highlights

					For the Year Ended November 30,
For the Six Months Ended May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)	For the Year Ended November 30, 2010	For the Year Ended November 30, 2009	For the Year Ended November 30, 2008	For the Year Ended November 30, 2007	2006
\$ 18.66	\$ 15.21	\$ 12.70	\$ 24.95	\$ 23.64	\$ 21.02
0.05	0.07	0.03	0.14	0.35	0.30
1.34	3.43	2.56	(9.18)	2.34	3.37
1.39	3.50	2.59	(9.04)	2.69	3.67
(0.04)	(0.05)		(0.06)	(0.26)	(0.04)
				(0.09)	(0.27)
	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.21)		
	0.04	0.03			
(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.27)	(0.35)	(0.31)
1.35	3.45	2.51	(9.31)	2.34	3.36
			(0.11)	(0.19)	(0.17)
			(0.04)	(0.84)	(0.57)
			(2.79)		
			(2.94)	(1.03)	(0.74)
1.35	3.45	2.51	(12.25)	1.31	2.62
\$ 20.01	\$ 18.66	\$ 15.21	\$ 12.70	\$ 24.95	\$ 23.64
\$ 16.87	\$ 15.52	\$ 12.69	\$ 9.17	\$ 22.70	\$ 21.59
7.2%	22.7%	19.8%	(40.3)%	10.4%	17.4%
8.7%	22.3%	38.4%	(52.6)%	10.0%	28.2%
2.11% <sup>(d)</sup>	2.19%	2.53%	2.22%	2.07%	2.21%
0.09% <sup>(d)</sup>	0.13%	0.22%	(0.70)%	0.04%	1.06%
1%	6%	12%	6%	28%	23%
\$246,843	\$230,287	\$187,653	\$156,733	\$307,876	\$291,662
12,339	12,339	12,339	12,339	12,339	12,339
1.62% <sup>(d)</sup>	1.63%	1.70%	1.69%	1.65%	1.71%

## Table of Contents

### Financial Highlights

### Boulder Total Return Fund

\* Taxable Auction Market Preferred Shares ( AMPS ).

(a) Calculated based on the average number of common shares outstanding during each fiscal period.

(b) Total return based on per share net asset value reflects the effects of changes in net asset value on the performance of the Fund during each fiscal period. Total return based on common share market value assumes the purchase of common shares at the market price on the first day and sale of common shares at the market price on the last day of the period indicated. Dividends and distributions, if any, are assumed to be reinvested at prices obtained under the Fund's distribution reinvestment plan.

(c) Expense ratios do not include the effect of transactions with preferred stockholders. The income ratio includes income earned on assets attributable to AMPS outstanding.

(d) Annualized.

The table below sets out information with respect to Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock currently outstanding.<sup>(1)</sup>

	Par Value (000)	Total Shares Outstanding (000)	Asset Coverage Per Share <sup>(2)</sup>	Involuntary Liquidating Preference Per Share
05/31/11	\$ 72,100	0.721	\$ 442,447	\$ 100,000
11/30/10	72,100	0.721	419,429	100,000
11/30/09	74,900	0.749	350,563	100,000
11/30/08	77,500	0.775	302,273	100,000
11/30/07	77,500	0.775	497,949	100,000
11/30/06	77,500	0.775	476,367	100,000

<sup>(1)</sup> See Note 5 in Notes to Financial Statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities from the Fund's total assets and dividing by the number of AMPS outstanding. See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## Table of Contents

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

### NOTE 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc. (the "Fund"), is a diversified, closed-end management company organized as a Maryland corporation and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("GAAP") which requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Portfolio Valuation:** The net asset value of the Fund's common shares is determined by the Fund's co-administrator no less frequently than on the last business day of each week and month. It is determined by dividing the value of the Fund's net assets attributable to common stock by the number of common shares outstanding. The value of the Fund's net assets attributable to common shares is deemed to equal the value of the Fund's total assets less (i) the Fund's liabilities and (ii) the aggregate liquidation value of the outstanding Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock. Securities for which market quotations are readily available (including securities listed on national securities exchanges and those traded over-the-counter) are valued on the basis of the last sale on such exchange or the NASDAQ Official Close Price on the day of valuation. To the extent valuation adjustments are not applied to these securities, they are categorized as Level 1. In the absence of sales of listed securities and with respect to securities for which the most recent sale prices are not deemed to represent fair market value, and unlisted securities (other than money market instruments), securities are valued at the mean between the closing bid and asked prices, or based on a matrix system which utilizes information (such as credit ratings, yields and maturities) from independent sources. Investments for which market quotations are not readily available or do not otherwise accurately reflect the fair value of the investment are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Fund, including reference to valuations of other securities which are considered comparable in quality, maturity and type. To the extent these inputs are observable and timely, the values of these securities are categorized as Level 2; otherwise the values are categorized as Level 3. Investments in money market instruments, which mature in 60 days or less at the time of purchase, are valued at amortized cost.

For valuation purposes, the last quoted prices of non-U.S. equity securities may be adjusted under the circumstances described below. If the Fund determines that developments between the close of a foreign market and the close of the NYSE will, in its judgment, materially affect the value of some or all of its portfolio securities, the Fund will adjust the previous closing prices to reflect what it believes to be the fair value of the securities as of the close of the NYSE. In deciding whether it is necessary to adjust closing prices to reflect fair value, the Fund reviews a variety of factors, including developments in foreign markets, the performance of U.S. securities markets, and the performance of instruments trading in U.S. markets that represent foreign securities and baskets of foreign securities. The Fund may also fair value securities in other situations, such as when a particular foreign market is closed but the U.S. market is open. The Fund uses outside pricing services to provide it with closing prices and information to evaluate and/or adjust those prices. The Fund cannot predict how often it will use closing prices and how often it will determine it necessary to adjust those prices to reflect fair value. If the Fund uses adjusted prices, the Fund will periodically compare closing prices, the next day's opening prices in the same markets, and those adjusted prices as a means of evaluating its security valuation process.

## Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Various inputs are used to determine the value of the Fund's investments. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions based on the best information available in the circumstances.

These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below.

- Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical investments
- Level 2 - Significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.)
- Level 3 - Significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments)

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of May 31, 2011 in valuing the Fund's investments carried at value:

	Level 1 - Quoted Prices	Level 2 - Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3 - Significant Unobservable Inputs	Total
<b>Investments in Securities at Value*</b>				
Domestic Common				
Stocks	\$261,502,825	\$	\$	\$261,502,825
Foreign Common				
Stocks	35,940,887			35,940,887
Foreign Government				
Bonds		3,233,909		3,233,909
Short Term				
Investments	17,571,460			17,571,460
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315,015,172</b>	<b>\$3,233,909</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$318,249,081</b>

The following is a reconciliation of assets in which significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) were used in determining fair value:

							Net change in unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation) included in the Statement of Operations attributable to Level 3 investments still held at
<b>Investments</b>							
<b>in Securities</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Change in</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Transfer in</b>	<b>Balance</b>	
<b>at Value*</b>	<b>as of</b>	<b>gain/(loss)</b>	<b>unrealized</b>	<b>purchases/(sales)</b>	<b>and/or (out)</b>	<b>as of</b>	
	<b>11/30/2010</b>		<b>appreciation/ (depreciation)</b>		<b>of Level</b>	<b>05/31/2011</b>	<b>5/31/2011</b>
					<b>3</b>		
Auction Preferred Securities	\$ 175,000	\$ (4,021)	\$ 25,021	\$ (196,000)	\$	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ (4,021)</b>	<b>\$ 25,021</b>	<b>\$ (196,000)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

\* *For detailed descriptions see the accompanying Portfolio of Investments.*



## Table of Contents

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (unaudited)

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Auditing Standards Update (ASU) No. 2010-06, Improving Disclosures About Fair Value Measurements. ASU No. 2010-06 amended FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820-10, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ( FASB ASC 820 ) to require new disclosures with regards to significant transfers into and out of Levels 1 and 2. ASU No. 2010-06 also clarifies existing fair value disclosures about the appropriate level of disaggregation and about inputs and valuation techniques for both recurring and nonrecurring fair value measurements that fall in either Level 2 or Level 3. The new disclosures and clarifications of existing disclosures were effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009. The adoption on January 1, 2010, of the additional disclosure requirements of ASU No. 2010-06 did not materially impact the Fund's financial statement disclosures.

In addition, ASU No. 2010-06 requires separate disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and other settlements in the rollforward of activity in Level 3 fair value measurements, which are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. The adoption of the additional Level 3 rollforward disclosure requirements is not expected to materially impact the Fund's financial statement disclosures.

**Securities Transactions and Investment Income:** Securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Realized gains and losses from securities sold are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recorded as of the ex-dividend date or for certain foreign securities when the information becomes available to the Fund. Interest income, including amortization of premium and accretion of discount on short-term investments, if any, is recorded on the accrual basis using the interest method.

Dividend income and return of capital received from investments in real estate investment trusts ( REITs ) and registered investment companies ( RICs ) is recorded at managements' estimate of income included in distributions received. Distributions received in excess of this amount are recorded as a reduction of the cost of investments. The actual amount of income and return of capital are determined by each REIT and RIC only after its fiscal year-end and may differ from the estimated amounts. Such differences, if any, are recorded in the Fund's following year. During the year ended November 30, 2010, the Fund received dividends from REITs of \$178,724 and RICs of \$1,190,785. It is estimated that \$163,609 of these dividends were return of capital.

**Foreign Currency Translations:** The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, investments and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate prevailing at the end of the period, and purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses transacted in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate on the dates of such transactions. Foreign currency gains and losses result from fluctuations in exchange rates between the trade date and settlement date on securities transactions, foreign currency transactions, and the difference between amounts of foreign interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Fund and the amounts actually received. The Fund records net realized gain or loss on investment securities and foreign currency transactions separately.

The portion of foreign currency gains and losses related to fluctuation in the exchange rates between the initial purchase trade date and subsequent sale trade date is included in gains and losses as stated in the

---

**Table of Contents**

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Statement of Operations under Foreign currency related transactions. The net U.S. dollar value of foreign currency underlying all contractual commitments held by the Fund and the resulting unrealized appreciation or depreciation are determined using prevailing forward foreign currency exchange rates. Unrealized appreciation and depreciation on foreign currency contracts are reported in the Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as a receivable or a payable and in the Fund's Statement of Operations with the change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation.

**Dividends and Distributions to Stockholders:** Dividends to common stockholders will be declared in such a manner as to avoid the imposition of the 4% excise tax described in Federal Income Taxes below. The stockholders of Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock ( AMPS ) are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends as declared by the Fund's Board of Directors. Distributions to stockholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Any net realized short-term capital gains will be distributed to stockholders at least annually. Any net realized long-term capital gains may be distributed to stockholders at least annually or may be retained by the Fund as determined by the Fund's Board of Directors. Capital gains retained by the Fund are subject to tax at the corporate tax rate. Subject to the Fund qualifying as a registered investment company, any taxes paid by the Fund on such net realized long-term gains may be used by the Fund's stockholders as a credit against their own tax liabilities.

**Recent Change in Investment Policy:** Effective July 30, 2010, the Fund implemented a Board initiated and approved fundamental investment policy which prohibits the Fund from investing more than 4% of its total assets (including leverage) in any single issuer at the time of purchase. The Fund's holdings as of July 30, 2010 were grandfathered into the policy and so any positions already greater than 4% of total assets are exempt from this limitation.

On May 2, 2011, stockholders approved elimination of the Fund's fundamental investment policy prohibiting the Fund from purchasing securities on margin.

**Use of Estimates:** The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Indemnifications:** Like many other companies, the Fund's organizational documents provide that its officers and directors are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund. In addition, both in some of its principal service contracts and in the normal course of its business, the Fund enters into contracts that provide indemnifications to other parties for certain types of losses or liabilities. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this could involve future claims against the Fund.

**Federal Income Taxes:** For federal income tax purposes, the Fund currently qualifies, and intends to remain qualified, as a regulated investment company under the provisions of subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code by distributing substantially all of its earnings to its stockholders. Therefore, no federal income or excise tax provision is required.

Income and capital gain distributions are determined and characterized in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from GAAP. These differences are primarily due to (1) differing treatments of income and gains on various investment securities held by the Fund, including

## Table of Contents

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

temporary differences, (2) the attribution of expenses against certain components of taxable investment income, and (3) federal regulations requiring proportional allocation of income and gains to all classes of stockholders. The Code imposes a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the Fund to the extent the Fund does not distribute by the end of any calendar year at least (1) 98% of the sum of its net investment income for that year and its capital gains (both long-term and short-term) for its fiscal year and (2) certain undistributed amounts from previous years.

Management has concluded that the Fund has taken no uncertain tax positions that require recognition. The Fund files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and Colorado. The statute of limitations on the Fund's federal and state tax filings remains open for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2007 through November 30, 2010.

### NOTE 2. INVESTMENT CO-ADVISORY FEES, DIRECTORS' FEES, CO-ADMINISTRATION FEE, CUSTODY FEE AND TRANSFER AGENT FEE

Boulder Investment Advisers, L.L.C. ( "BIA" ) and Stewart Investment Advisers ( "SIA" ) serve as the Fund's co-investment advisers (the "Advisers" ). The Fund pays the Advisers a monthly fee at an annual rate of 1.25% of the value of the Fund's average monthly total net assets plus the principal amount of leverage, if any ( "Net Assets" ). At the November 8, 2010 Board of Directors meeting, the Advisers agreed to a waiver of advisory fees such that, in the future, the advisory fees would be calculated at the annual rate of 1.25% on Net Assets up to \$400 million, 1.10% on Net Assets between \$400-\$600 million and 1.00% on Net Assets exceeding \$600 million. This fee waiver has a one year term and is renewable annually at the option of the Advisers. The waiver is not subject to recapture. As the Fund's Net Assets did not exceed \$400 million at any time during the six months ended May 31, 2011, there was no fee waiver for that period. The equity owners of BIA are Evergreen Atlantic, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company ( "EALLC" ), and the Lola Brown Trust No. 1B (the "Lola Trust" ), each of which is considered to be an affiliated person of the Fund as that term is defined in the 1940 Act. Stewart West Indies Trading Company, Ltd. is a Barbados international business company doing business as Stewart Investment Advisers. SIA receives a monthly fee equal to 75% of the fees earned by the Advisers, and BIA receives 25% of the fees earned by the Advisers. The equity owner of SIA is the Stewart West Indies Trust, considered to be an affiliated person of the Fund as that term is defined in the 1940 Act.

Fund Administrative Services, LLC ( "FAS" ) serves as the Fund's co-administrator. Under the Administration Agreement, FAS provides certain administrative and executive management services to the Fund. The Fund pays FAS a monthly fee, calculated at an annual rate of 0.20% of the value of the Fund's Net Assets up to \$100 million, and 0.15% of the Fund's Net Assets over \$100 million. Prior to February 1, 2010, the Fund paid FAS a monthly fee, calculated at an annual rate of 0.20% of the value of the Fund's Net Assets up to \$250 million; 0.18% on the next \$150 million in Net Assets; and 0.15% on Net Assets over \$400 million. The equity owners of FAS are EALLC and the Lola Trust., each of which is considered to be an affiliated person of the Fund as that term is defined in the 1940 Act.

ALPS Fund Services, Inc. ( "ALPS" ) serves as the Fund's co-administrator. As compensation for its services, ALPS receives certain out-of-pocket expenses and asset-based fees, which are accrued daily and paid monthly. Fees paid to ALPS are calculated based on combined Net Assets of the Fund and the following affiliates: Boulder Growth & Income Fund, Inc., The Denali Fund Inc., and First Opportunity Fund, Inc. (the "Fund Group" ). ALPS receives the greater of the following, based on combined Net Assets of the Fund Group: an annual minimum of \$460,000, or an annualized fee

## Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

of 0.045% on Net Assets up to \$1 billion, an annualized fee of 0.03% on Net Assets between \$1 and \$3 billion, and an annualized fee of 0.02% on Net Assets above \$3 billion.

The Fund pays each Director who is not a director, officer, employee, or affiliate of the Advisers or FAS a fee of \$8,000 per annum, plus \$4,000 for each in-person meeting of the Board of Directors and \$500 for each telephone meeting. In addition, the Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Audit Committee each receive \$1,000 per meeting and each member of the Audit Committee receives \$500 per meeting. The Fund will also reimburse all non-interested Directors for travel and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with such meetings.

Bank of New York Mellon (BNY Mellon) serves as the Fund's custodian and as compensation for BNY Mellon's services the Fund pays BNY Mellon a monthly fee plus certain out-of-pocket expenses. BNY Mellon also serves as the Fund's Common Stock Servicing Agent (transfer agent), dividend-paying agent and registrar, and as compensation for BNY Mellon's services as such, the Fund pays BNY Mellon a monthly fee plus certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (Auction Agent), a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bank AG, serves as the Fund's Preferred Stock transfer agent, registrar, dividend disbursing agent and redemption agent.

### NOTE 3. SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

Purchases and sales of securities, excluding short term securities, during the six months ended May 31, 2011 were \$5,802,483 and \$2,671,425, respectively.

On May 31, 2011, based on cost of \$174,761,650 for federal income tax purposes, aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all securities in which there is an excess of value over tax cost was \$144,646,122 and aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all securities in which there is an excess of tax cost over value was \$1,158,691, resulting in net unrealized appreciation of \$143,487,431.

### NOTE 4. CAPITAL

At May 31, 2011, 240,000,000 of \$0.01 par value Common Stock were authorized, of which 12,338,660 were outstanding.

Transactions in common stock were as follows:

	<b>For the Six Months Ended May 31, 2011</b>	<b>For the Year Ended November 30, 2010</b>
Common Stock outstanding -beginning of period	12,338,660	12,338,660
Common Stock outstanding - end of period	12,338,660	12,338,660

### NOTE 5. TAXABLE AUCTION MARKET PREFERRED STOCK

The Fund's Articles of Incorporation authorize the issuance of up to 10,000,000 shares of \$0.01 par value preferred stock. On August 15, 2000, the Fund's 775 shares of Money Market Cumulative Preferred Stock were retired and 775 shares of Taxable Auction Market Preferred Stock



## **Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

( AMPS ) were issued. AMPS is senior to the common stock and results in the financial leveraging of the common stock. Such leveraging tends to magnify both the risks and opportunities to common stockholders. Dividends on shares of AMPS are cumulative. The Fund's AMPS have a liquidation preference of \$100,000 per share, plus any accumulated unpaid distributions, whether or not earned or declared by the Fund but excluding interest thereon ( Liquidation Value ) and have no set retirement date. The Fund retired 26 shares of AMPS during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2009, with a total par value of \$2,600,000. Those shares were purchased at a discount, an average price of \$84,923 per share, resulting in a realized gain of \$392,000. During the fiscal year ended November 30, 2010, the Fund retired 28 shares of AMPS, with a total par value of \$2,800,000. These shares were purchased at a discount, an average price of \$81,857 per share, resulting in a realized gain of \$508,000.

For the six months ended May 31, 2011, distribution rates ranged from 1.45% to 1.52%. The Fund declared distributions to preferred stockholders for the period December 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011 of \$545,698.

An auction of the AMPS is generally held every 28 days. Existing stockholders may submit an order to hold, bid or sell shares on each auction date. AMPS stockholders may also trade shares in the secondary market. In February 2008, the auction preferred shares market for closed-end funds became illiquid resulting in failed auctions for the AMPS. As such, the Fund continues to pay dividends on the AMPS at the maximum rate, set forth in the Fund's Articles Supplementary, the governing document for the AMPS. The Fund's maximum rate is set at the greater of 1.25% of 30-day LIBOR or 30-day LIBOR plus 125 basis points.

The Fund is subject to certain limitations and restrictions while AMPS are outstanding. Failure to comply with these limitations and restrictions could preclude the Fund from declaring any dividends or distributions to common shareholders or repurchasing common shares and/or could trigger the mandatory redemption of AMPS at their liquidation value. Specifically, the Fund is required under the Fund's Articles Supplementary and the Investment Company Act of 1940 to maintain certain asset coverage with respect to the outstanding AMPS. The holders of AMPS are entitled to one vote per share and will vote with holders of common stock as a single class, except that the AMPS will vote separately as a class on certain matters, as required by law or the Fund's charter. The holders of the AMPS, voting as a separate class, are entitled at all times to elect two Directors of the Fund, and to elect a majority of the Directors of the Fund if the Fund fails to pay distributions on AMPS for two consecutive years.

In connection with the settlement of each AMPS auction, the Fund pays, through the Auction Agent, a service fee to each participating broker-dealer based upon the aggregate liquidation preference of the AMPS held by the broker-dealer's customers. Prior to February 19, 2009 the Fund paid at an annual rate of 0.25% and upon this date the annual rate was reduced to 0.05% until further notice from the Fund. These fees are paid for failed auctions as well.

On May 31, 2011, 721 shares of AMPS were outstanding at the annual rate of 1.45%. The dividend rate, as set by the auction process, is generally expected to vary with short-term interest rates. These rates may vary in a manner unrelated to the income received on the Fund's assets, which could have either a beneficial or detrimental impact on net investment income and gains available to common stockholders. While the Fund expects to earn a higher return on its assets than the

---

**Table of Contents**

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

cost associated with the AMPS, including expenses, there can be no assurance that such results will be attained.

**NOTE 6. PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS, CONCENTRATION AND INVESTMENT QUALITY**

The Fund operates as a diversified management investment company, as defined in the 1940 Act. Under this definition, at least 75% of the value of the Fund's total assets must at the time of investment consist of cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. Government securities, securities of other investment companies, and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater in value than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets (at the time of purchase) and to not more than 10% of the voting securities of a single issuer. This limit does not apply, however, to 25% of the Fund's assets, which may be invested in securities representing more than 5% of the Fund's total assets or even in a single issuer.

As of May 31, 2011, the Fund held more than 25% of its assets in Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., as a direct result of the market appreciation of the issuer since the time of purchase. Thus, the volatility of the Fund's common stock, and the Fund's net asset value and its performance in general, depends disproportionately more on the performance of this single issuer than that of a more diversified fund.

The Fund intends to concentrate its common stock investments in a few issuers and to take large positions in those issuers. As a result, the Fund is subject to a greater risk of loss than a fund that diversifies its investments more broadly. Taking larger positions is also likely to increase the volatility of the Fund's net asset value reflecting fluctuation in the value of its large holdings.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund intends to invest in a portfolio of common stocks. The portion of the Fund's assets invested in each stock can vary depending on market conditions. The term "common stocks" includes both stocks acquired primarily for their appreciation potential and stocks acquired for their income potential, such as dividend-paying RICs and REITs.

The Fund has no restrictions on its ability to invest in foreign securities. Investment in non-U.S. issuers may involve unique risks compared to investing in securities of U.S. issuers. These risks may include, but are not limited to: (i) less information about non-U.S. issuers or markets may be available due to less rigorous disclosure, accounting standards or regulatory practices; (ii) many non-U.S. markets are smaller, less liquid and more volatile thus, in a changing market, the Advisers may not be able to sell the Fund's portfolio securities at times, in amounts and at prices they consider reasonable; (iii) currency exchange rates or controls may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments; (iv) the economies of non-U.S. countries may grow at slower rates than expected or may experience downturns or recessions; and, (v) withholdings and other non-U.S. taxes may decrease the Fund's return.

**NOTE 7. SIGNIFICANT STOCKHOLDERS**

On May 31, 2011, trusts and other entities affiliated with Stewart R. Horejsi and the Horejsi family owned 5,200,661 shares of Common Stock of the Fund, representing approximately 42.15% of the total Fund shares. Stewart R. Horejsi is the primary portfolio manager for SIA and is the Fund's

**Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

primary portfolio manager. He is responsible for the day-to-day strategic management of the Fund. Entities affiliated with Mr. Horejsi and the Horejsi family also own the Advisers and FAS.

**NOTE 8. SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM**

In accordance with Section 23(c) of the 1940 Act, the Fund may from time to time effect redemptions and/or repurchases of its AMPS and/or its common stock, in the open market or through private transactions; at the option of the Board of Directors and upon such terms as the Directors shall determine.

For the six months ended May 31, 2011, the Fund did not repurchase any of its own stock.

**NOTE 9. TAX BASIS DISTRIBUTIONS**

As determined on November 30, 2010, permanent differences resulting primarily from different book and tax accounting for gains and losses on foreign currency and certain other investments were reclassified at fiscal year-end. These reclassifications had no effect on net increase in net assets resulting from operations, net assets applicable to common stockholders or net asset value per common share outstanding.

Ordinary income and long-term capital gains are allocated to common stockholders after payment of the available amounts on any outstanding AMPS. To the extent that the amount distributed to common stockholders exceeds the amount of available ordinary income and long-term capital gains after allocation to any outstanding AMPS, these distributions are treated as a tax return of capital. Additionally, to the extent that the amount distributed on any outstanding AMPS exceeds the amount of available ordinary income and long-term capital gains, these distributions are treated as a tax return of capital.

Permanent book and tax basis differences of \$(292,519), \$(284,390) and \$576,909 were reclassified at November 30, 2010 among undistributed net investment income, accumulated net realized losses on investments and paid-in-capital, respectively, for the Fund.

The character of distributions paid on a tax basis during the year ended November 30, 2010 and November 30, 2009 were as follows:

	<b>Year Ended</b>	<b>Year Ended</b>
	<b>November 30, 2010</b>	<b>November 30, 2009</b>
Distributions paid from:		
Ordinary Income	\$ 572,570	\$
Tax Return of Capital	566,147	1,303,824
	\$ 1,138,717	\$ 1,303,824



**Table of Contents**

Notes to Financial Statements  
*May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)*

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

As of November 30, 2010, the Fund had available for tax purposes unused capital loss carryovers totaling \$19,263,682, of which \$9,408,356 expires November 30, 2016 and \$9,855,326 expires November 30, 2017. During the year ended November 30, 2010, the Fund used capital loss carryovers of \$37,615.

As of November 30, 2010, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

Accumulated Capital Losses	\$ (19,263,682)
Unrealized Appreciation	125,926,572
Cumulative Effect of Other Timing Differences	(14,202)
Total	\$ 106,648,688

The difference between book and tax basis distributable earnings is attributable primarily to temporary differences related to partnership book and tax differences.

#### NOTE 10. OTHER INFORMATION

Rights Offerings: The Fund, like other closed-end funds, may at times raise cash for investment by issuing a fixed number of shares through one or more public offerings, including rights offerings. Proceeds from any such offerings will be used to further the investment objectives of the Fund.

## **Table of Contents**

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Additional Information  
*May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)*

### PORTFOLIO INFORMATION

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Fund's Form N-Q is available (1) on the Fund's website located at <http://www.boulderfunds.net>; (2) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>; or (3) for review and copying at the SEC's Public Reference Room ( PRR ) in Washington, DC. Information regarding the operation of the PRR may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330.

### PROXY INFORMATION

The policies and procedures used to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund are available on the Fund's website located at <http://www.boulderfunds.net>, on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), or by calling 303-449-0426. Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30 is available at <http://www.sec.gov>.

### SENIOR OFFICER CODE OF ETHICS

The Fund files a copy of its code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions (the Senior Officer Code of Ethics ), with the SEC as an exhibit to its annual report on Form N-CSR. The Fund's Senior Officer Code of Ethics is available on the Fund's website located at <http://www.boulderfunds.net>.

### PRIVACY STATEMENT

Pursuant to SEC Regulation S-P (Privacy of Consumer Financial Information) the Directors of the Fund have established the following policy regarding information about the Fund's stockholders. We consider all stockholder data to be private and confidential, and we hold ourselves to the highest standards in its safekeeping and use.

**General Statement.** The Fund may collect nonpublic information (e.g., your name, address, email address, Social Security Number, Fund holdings (collectively, Personal Information ) about stockholders from transactions in Fund shares. The Fund will not release Personal Information about current or former stockholders (except as permitted by law) unless one of the following conditions is met: (i) we receive your prior written consent; (ii) we believe the recipient to be you or your authorized representative; (iii) to service or support the business functions of the Fund (as explained in more detail below), or (iv) we are required by law to release Personal Information to the recipient. The Fund has not and will not in the future give or sell Personal Information about its current or former stockholders to any company, individual, or group (except as permitted by law) and as otherwise provided in this policy.

In the future, the Fund may make certain electronic services available to its stockholders and may solicit your email address and contact you by email, telephone or US mail regarding the availability of such services. The Fund may also contact stockholders by email, telephone or US mail in connection with these services, such as to confirm enrollment in electronic stockholders communications or to update your Personal Information. In no event will the Fund transmit your Personal Information via email without your consent.

**Use of Personal Information.** The Fund will only use Personal Information (i) as necessary to service or maintain stockholder accounts in the ordinary course of business and (ii) to support business functions of the Fund and its affiliated businesses. This means that the Fund may share certain Personal Information, only as permitted by law, with affiliated businesses of the Fund, and that such information may be used for

## Edgar Filing: BOULDER TOTAL RETURN FUND INC - Form N-CSRS

non-Fund-related solicitation. When Personal Information is shared with the Fund's business

Semi-Annual Report | May 31, 2011

25

## Table of Contents

Additional Information  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

affiliates, the Fund may do so without providing you the option of preventing these types of disclosures as permitted by law.

**Safeguards regarding Personal Information.** Internally, we also restrict access to Personal Information to those who have a specific need for the records. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with Federal standards to guard Personal Information. Any doubts about the confidentiality of Personal Information, as required by law, are resolved in favor of confidentiality.

## MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS VOTING RESULTS

On May 2, 2011, the Fund held its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to consider the proposals set forth below. The following votes were recorded:

Proposal 1: To eliminate the Fund's fundamental investment policy prohibiting the Fund from purchasing securities on margin.

	# of Votes Cast	% of Votes Cast
For	6,802,960	96.96%
Against	206,269	2.94%
Abstain	7,278	0.10%
Non Vote		0.00%
TOTAL	7,016,507	100.00%

Proposal 2: To approve amendments to the Fund's Charter that would permit the Fund's directors that are elected by holders of the Fund's preferred stock, at such time that the Fund's preferred stock is no longer outstanding, to continue to serve as directors of the Fund for the remainder of his or her term and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.

	# of Votes Cast	% of Votes Cast
For	6,826,040	97.29%
Against	206,269	2.33%
Abstain	26,693	0.38%
Non Vote		0.00%
TOTAL	7,016,507	100.00%

Proposal 3: Election of Directors. Election of Joel W. Looney as Director of the Fund (both common and preferred stockholders vote)

	# of Votes Cast	% of Votes Cast
For	9,515,756	99.97%
Against	3,151	0.03%
Abstain		0.00%
TOTAL	9,518,907	100.00%

Election of John J. Horejsi as Director of the Fund (only preferred stockholders vote)

	# of Votes Cast	% of Votes Cast
For	455	100.00%

Against		0.00%
Abstain		0.00%
TOTAL	455	100.00%

## Table of Contents

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.

Summary of Dividend Reinvestment Plan  
May 31, 2011 (Unaudited)

Registered holders ( Common Stockholders ) of common shares (the Common Shares ) are automatically enrolled (the Participants ) in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan ) whereupon all distributions of income, capital gains or managed distributions ( Distributions ) are automatically reinvested in additional Common Shares. Common Stockholders who elect to not participate in the Plan will receive all distributions in cash paid by check in U.S. dollars mailed directly to the stockholders of record (or if the shares are held in street name or other nominee name, then the nominee) by the custodian, as dividend disbursing agent.

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (the Agent ) serves as Agent for each Participant in administering the Plan. After the Fund declares a Distribution, if (1) the net asset value per Common Share is equal to or less than the market price per Common Share plus estimated brokerage commissions on the payment date for a Distribution, Participants will be issued Common Shares at the higher of net asset value per Common Share or 95% of the market price per Common Share on the payment date; or if (2) the net asset value per Common Share exceeds the market price plus estimated brokerage commissions on the payment date for a Distribution, the Agent shall apply the amount of such Distribution to purchase Common Shares on the open market and Participants will receive the equivalent in Common Shares valued at the weighted average market price (including brokerage commissions) determined as of the time of the purchase (generally, following the payment date of the Distribution). If, before the Agent has completed its purchases, the market price plus estimated brokerage commissions exceeds the net asset value of the Common Shares as of the payment date, the purchase price paid by the Agent may exceed the net asset value of the Common Shares, resulting in the acquisition of fewer Common Shares than if such Distribution had been paid in Common Shares issued by the Fund. If the Agent is unable to invest the full Distribution amount in purchases in the open market or if the market discount shifts to a market premium during the purchase period than the Agent may cease making purchases in the open market the instant the Agent is notified of a market premium and may invest the uninvested portion of the Distribution in newly issued Common Shares at the net asset value per Common Share at the close of business provided that, if the net asset value is less than or equal to 95% of the then current market price per Common Share, the dollar amount of the Distribution will be divided by 95% of the market price on the payment date. The Fund will not issue Common Shares under the Plan below net asset value.

There is no charge to Participants for reinvesting Distributions, except for certain brokerage commissions, as described below. The Agent's fees for the handling of the reinvestment of Distributions will be paid by the Fund. There will be no brokerage commissions charged with respect to shares issued directly by the Fund. However, each Participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Agent's open market purchase in connection with the reinvestment of Distributions. The automatic reinvestment of Distributions will not relieve Participants of any federal income tax that may be payable on such Distributions.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan upon 90 days' written notice to Common Stockholders of the Fund.

Participants in the Plan may (i) request a certificate, (ii) request to sell their shares, or (iii) withdraw from the Plan upon written notice to the Agent or by telephone in accordance with the specific procedures and will receive certificates for whole Common Shares and cash for fractional Common Shares.

All correspondence concerning the Plan should be directed to the Agent, BNY Mellon Investment Servicing, P.O. Box 358035, Pittsburgh, PA, 15252-8035. To receive a full copy of the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan, please contact the Agent at 1-866-228-4853.

**Table of Contents**

Notes

Boulder Total Return Fund, Inc.









**Table of Contents**

<b>Directors</b>	Richard I. Barr Susan L. Ciciora John S. Horejsi Dr. Dean L. Jacobson Joel W. Looney
<b>Co-Investment Advisers</b>	Stewart Investment Advisers Boulder Investment Advisers, LLC 2344 Spruce Street, Suite A Boulder, CO 80302
<b>Co-Administrator</b>	Fund Administrative Services, LLC 2344 Spruce Street, Suite A Boulder, CO 80302
<b>Co-Administrator</b>	ALPS Fund Services, Inc. 1290 Broadway, Suite 1100 Denver, CO 80203
<b>Custodian</b>	Bank of New York Mellon One Wall Street New York, NY 10286
<b>Stock Transfer Agent</b>	BNY Mellon Investment Servicing PO Box 358035 Pittsburgh, PA 15252-8035
<b>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</b>	Deloitte & Touche LLP 555 17th Street, Suite 3600 Denver, CO 80202
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Paul Hastings LLP 515 South Flower Street Twenty-Fifth Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071

*Statistics and projections in this report are derived from sources deemed to be reliable but cannot be regarded as a representation of future results of the Fund. This report is prepared for the general information of stockholders and is not a prospectus, circular or representation intended for use in the purchase or sale of shares of the Fund or of any securities mentioned in this report.*

**Table of Contents**

BOULDER TOTAL RETURN FUND, INC.  
P.O. Box 358035  
Pittsburgh, PA 15252-8035

**Table of Contents**

**Item 2. Code of Ethics.**

Not applicable.

**Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.**

Not applicable.

**Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.**

Not applicable.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed Registrants.**

Not applicable.

**Item 6. Investments.**

The Registrant's full schedule of investments is included as part of the report to stockholders filed under Item 1 of this Form.

**Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies.**

Not applicable.

**Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.**

No reportable purchases for the period covered by this report.

**Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.**

No material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Directors have been implemented after the registrant's last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 407(c)(2)(iv) of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.407) (as required by Item 22(b)(15) of Schedule 14A (17 CFR 240.14a-101)), or this Item.

**Item 11. Controls and Procedures.**

(a) The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of the report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) that occurred during the registrant's second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 12. Exhibits.**

(a)(1) Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

(a)(2) Certifications pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

(a)(3) Not applicable.

(b) Certifications pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) BOULDER TOTAL RETURN FUND, INC.

By (Signature and Title)     /s/ Stephen C. Miller  
Stephen C. Miller, President

(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: August 8, 2011

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the date indicated.

By (Signature and Title)     /s/ Stephen C. Miller  
Stephen C. Miller, President

(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: August 8, 2011

By (Signature and Title)     /s/ Nicole L. Murphey  
Nicole L. Murphey, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer,

Vice President, Treasurer, Asst. Secretary

(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: August 8, 2011