

## Permian Basin Royalty Trust (PBT)

Updated April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by Aristofanis Papadatos

#### **Key Metrics**

| Current Price:       | \$26   | 5 Year CAGR Estimate:               | -20.6% | Market Cap:               | \$1.2 B |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------|
| Fair Value Price:    | \$5.20 | 5 Year Growth Estimate:             | 3.0%   | Ex-Dividend Date:         | 3/30/23 |
| % Fair Value:        | 500%   | 5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate: | -27.5% | Dividend Payment Date:    | 4/14/23 |
| Dividend Yield:      | 1.5%   | 5 Year Price Target                 | \$6.00 | Years Of Dividend Growth: | 1       |
| Dividend Risk Score: | F      | Retirement Suitability Score:       | F      | Rating:                   | Sell    |

### **Overview & Current Events**

Permian Basin Royalty Trust (PBT), based in Dallas, Texas, is an oil and gas trust (about 70% oil and 30% gas), which was founded in 1980. It is a combination trust: unit holders have a 75% net overriding royalty interest in Waddell Ranch Properties in Texas, which includes 332 net productive oil wells, 106 net productive gas wells and 120 net injection wells; and a 95% net overriding royalty interest in the Texas Royalty Properties, which includes various oil wells.

The trust's assets are static in that no further properties can be added. The trust has no operations but is merely a passthrough vehicle for the royalties. PBT had royalty income of \$11.8 million in 2021 and \$54.4 million in 2022.

In early March, PBT reported (3/1/23) financial results for the full fiscal 2022. Its average realized prices of oil and gas grew 49% and 57%, respectively, over the prior year thanks to the multi-year high benchmark prices, which resulted from the sanctions of Europe and the U.S. on Russia for its invasion in Ukraine. Oil volumes nearly doubled while gas volumes more than doubled. As a result, distributable income per unit jumped from \$0.23 to \$1.15, a 10-year high.

After several months of disappointing distributions, which resulted from high operating expenses on the Waddell Ranch properties, PBT boosted its distributions in the second half of 2022. However, it has reduced them again this year due to high operating expenses and a plunge in gas prices amid unfavorable (warm) weather. In the first three months of 2022, it has offered total distributions of \$0.10 per unit, which correspond to a 1.5% annualized yield. We are concerned over the unreliable and volatile business performance of PBT.

| Year               | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2028   |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| DCFU               | \$0.87 | \$1.02 | \$0.34 | \$0.42 | \$0.63 | \$0.66 | \$0.42 | \$0.24 | \$0.23 | \$1.15 | \$0.40 | \$0.46 |
| DPU                | \$0.87 | \$1.02 | \$0.34 | \$0.42 | \$0.63 | \$0.66 | \$0.42 | \$0.24 | \$0.23 | \$1.15 | \$0.40 | \$0.46 |
| Units <sup>1</sup> | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   | 46.6   |

### Growth on a Per-Unit Basis

Essentially all the royalty income the trust receives is passed through to unit holders. The trust has generated an average distributable and distributed cash flow of \$0.60/unit annually for the past 10 years, though with a noticeable decrease in the last seven years, until last year. Given the natural decline of the production of oil wells and gas wells, the long-term downtrend in cash flows should be expected. The trust posted 10-year high distributable cash flow per unit last year thanks to the aforementioned sanctions but gas prices have plunged due to a warm winter. We also expect oil prices to deflate in the upcoming years due to a record number of clean energy projects underway. Nevertheless, given the low comparison base formed so far this year, we expect distributable cash flow to grow 3% per year on average until 2028.

#### Valuation Analysis

| Year      | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Now  | 2028 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| P/DCFU    | 15.5 | 12.8 | 22.9 | 15.8 | 14.4 | 13.2 | 13.6 | 13.3 | 23.9 | 14.5 | 65.0 | 13.0 |
| Avg. Yld. | 6.4% | 7.8% | 4.4% | 6.3% | 6.9% | 7.6% | 7.4% | 7.5% | 4.2% | 6.9% | 1.5% | 7.7% |

<sup>1</sup> Average Weighted Unit count is in millions.

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The trust's DCFU price multiple has averaged 16.0 over the past 10 years. We assume a fair valuation multiple of 13.0 for the trust due to our natural expectations for declining production volumes in the long run. PBT is currently trading at a valuation multiple of 65.0 due to the low comparison base formed so far this year. If PBT trades at our assumed fair valuation level in five years, it will incur a -27.5% annualized drag in its returns.

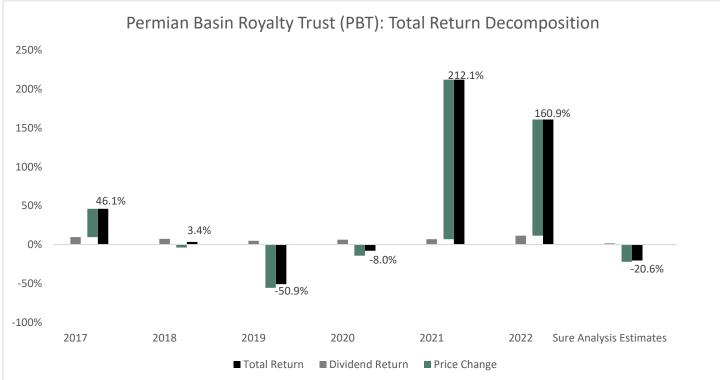
### Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

|        |      |      |      |      |      |      | 0 /  |      |      | '    |      |      |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Year   | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2028 |
| Payout | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

PBT has been in continuous existence for 43 years paying an average 6.5% yield in the last decade (albeit with high volatility in the distributions). However, future distributions are highly unpredictable due to the absence of any guidance and the unknown path of oil and gas prices. If the realized price of oil of PBT remains elevated and the price of gas increases, the trust will reward its unit holders with generous distributions. On the other hand, whenever the energy market enters another downcycle, the trust is likely to exhibit poor performance.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

After many quarters of disappointing distributions, which resulted from high operating expenses, PBT boosted its distributions in the back half of 2022 but it has reduced them again this year. Moreover, we expect oil prices to deflate in the upcoming years due to the record number of renewable energy projects that are in their development phase. We expect PBT to offer a -20.6% average annual return over the next five years, as its 1.5% initial distribution and 3.0% growth of distributable income per unit may be offset by a -27.5% valuation headwind. As a result, PBT receives a sell rating. We also reiterate that we do not believe PBT is a buy-and-hold-forever stock due to the natural decline of its production in the long run.



## Total Return Breakdown by Year

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#### **Income Statement Metrics**

| Year                    | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Revenue                 | 41.75 | 49.01 | 17.80 | 21.09 | 30.57 | 32.11 | 20.51 | 12.05 | 11.81 | 54.47 |
| SG&A Exp.               | 1.23  | 1.29  | 1.25  | 1.19  | 1.25  | 1.32  | 1.09  | 1.04  | 1.09  | 0.92  |
| <b>Operating Profit</b> | 40.52 | 47.72 | 16.05 | 19.35 | 29.33 | 30.79 | 19.42 | 10.96 | 10.72 | 53.54 |
| <b>Operating Margin</b> | 97%   | 97%   | 90%   | 92%   | 96%   | 96%   | 95%   | 91%   | 91%   | 98%   |
| Net Profit              | 40.52 | 47.72 | 16.05 | 19.35 | 29.33 | 30.79 | 19.42 | 10.96 | 10.72 | 53.54 |
| Net Margin              | 97%   | 97%   | 90%   | 92%   | 96%   | 96%   | 95%   | 91%   | 91%   | 98%   |

#### **Balance Sheet Metrics**

| Year              | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Assets      | 3.92 | 2.83 | 2.15 | 4.40 | 3.95 | 3.99 | 3.29 | 2.11 | 2.60 | 3.13 |
| Total Liabilities | 3.14 | 2.11 | 1.46 | 3.80 | 3.42 | 3.53 | 2.86 | 1.73 | 2.25 | 2.86 |
| Long-Term Debt    | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Book Value        | 0.78 | 0.72 | 0.68 | 0.60 | 0.53 | 0.47 | 0.42 | 0.38 | 0.35 | 0.28 |
| LTD/E Ratio       | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

#### **Profitability & Per Share Metrics**

| Year          | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Shares Out.   | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 | 46.61 |
| Revenue/Share | 0.90  | 1.05  | 0.38  | 0.45  | 0.66  | 0.69  | 0.44  | 0.26  | 0.25  | 1.17  |

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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