

Cushing MLP Total Return Fund  
Form 8-A12B  
August 02, 2007

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-A  
FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**THE CUSHING MLP TOTAL RETURN FUND**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State of incorporation or organization)

**35-2303963**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**3300 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Suite 650  
Dallas, Texas 75219**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

**Title of each class to be so registered**

**Name of each exchange on which each class  
is to be registered**

Common Shares of Beneficial Interest

New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), check the following box.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: 333-143305

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

A description of the common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.001 per share (the "Common Shares"), of the registrant to be registered by this filing is set out in the section entitled "Description of Shares" in the Prospectus included in the registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2, File No. 333-143305, as amended, initially filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 25, 2007, amended by pre-effective amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form N-2, filed on July 3, 2007, and pre-effective amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form N-2, filed on July 20, 2007, and is incorporated in this filing by reference. Any prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 497 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement on Form 8-A.

Item 2. Exhibits

Pursuant to the instructions as to exhibits, no exhibits are filed with this filing or incorporated in this filing by reference.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

**THE CUSHING MLP TOTAL RETURN  
FUND**

Date: August 2, 2007

By: /s/ Mark W. Fordyce

Name: Mark W. Fordyce

Title: CFO, Treasurer and Secretary