Old West Investment Management, LLC

Q1 2026 Manager Commentary

Old West Small Cap

12/31/2025 – 03/31/2026

PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

For Q1 2026, Old West Small Cap returned +20.72% (net).

Old West Small Cap (12/01/2008 inception through 03/31/2026)

	Year-To-Date	1-Year	3-Year Annualized	5-Year Annualized	10-Year Annualized	Annualized Inception
Gross	**20.93%**	**108.33%**	**27.11%**	**15.24%**	**19.13%**	**16.08%**
Net	**20.72%**	**106.95%**	**26.12%**	**14.29%**	**18.12%**	**15.05%**
R2000	0.89%	25.72%	13.05%	3.77%	9.88%	10.73%

Q1 2026 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Q1 2026 Contributors	Q1 2026 Detractors
• Chemours Co. (CC) • Tidewater Inc. (TDW) • Oceaneering International Inc. (OII)	• Bruker Biosciences Corp. (BRKR) • Ralliant Corp. (RAL) • Trilogy Metals Inc. (TMQ)

Top Contributors:

- **Chemours Co. (CC):** Chemours is critical input supplier across a huge range of industrial end markets as one of the world's largest producers of fluorochemicals and fluoropolymers. The company was spun off from DuPont in July 2015.[1] The business runs through three segments: Thermal & Specialized Solutions, Titanium

[1] https://www.bccresearch.com/company-index/profile/the-chemours-co

Technologies, and Advanced Performance Materials. Flagship products are sold under brands including Opteon, Freon, Ti-Pure, Nafion, Teflon, Viton, and Krytox.[2]

In Q1 2026, Chemours stock was driven higher because Opteon refrigerant sales grew 56% in 2025[3], driven by regulatory mandates phasing out older HFC refrigerants. The company then beat earnings expectations in March, sending the stock up over 9% in a single day, with UBS raising its price target to $23. Finally, a debt restructuring through a senior notes offering further stabilized the balance sheet[4], removing a key overhang that had been weighing on the stock.

- **Tidewater Inc. (TDW):** Tidewater has the largest fleet of offshore support vessels in the industry and is the oldest and most experienced provider of marine support services to the offshore oil and gas sector.[5] Today over 90% of their fleet works internationally across more than 60 countries. Their core capabilities include towing and anchor handling for mobile offshore drilling units, transporting supplies and personnel, and support services critical to offshore exploration and production activities from initial exploration all the way through field abandonment and site restoration.[6]

  In Q1 2026, Tidewater stock was driven higher mainly due to the increase in the price of oil. When oil surges to $118 a barrel, every oil company in the world accelerates their offshore drilling and production activity, which means more demand for Tidewater's vessels, and more pricing power on day rates. On top of that, the company executed well. Their most recent earnings came in at $4.41 per share against an estimate of just $0.77, a 472% earnings surprise.[7]

- **Oceaneering International Inc. (OII)**: Oceaneering International is a subsea engineering and applied technology company that provides engineered services and hardware to customers who operate in marine, space, and other environments. Their operations are structured across five segments: Subsea Robotics, Manufactured Products, Offshore Projects Group, Integrity Management & Digital Solutions, and Aerospace and Defense Technologies.[8]

  In Q1 2026, OII stock was driven higher because of its Q4 2025 earnings beat, 45 cents versus a 31 cent consensus, which triggered a wave of analyst upgrades and price target increases.[9] The company also entered 2026 with a record $3.7 billion

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[2] https://www.3blmedia.com/profiles/chemours-company
[3] https://www.thestockobserver.com/2026/02/23/chemours-q4-earnings-call-highlights.html
[4] https://stockstotrade.com/news/chemours-company-the-cc-news-2026_03_17/
[5] https://www.tdw.com/services-fleet/tidewater-marine/
[6] https://www.noia.org/tidewater/
[7] https://www.tradingview.com/symbols/NYSE-TDW/
[8] https://www.zoominfo.com/c/oceaneering-international-inc/83870659
[9] https://www.cnn.com/markets/stocks/OII

order backlog, giving investors strong confidence in the revenue outlook.[10] The Iran conflict and oil price spike then removed the key bear case. When oil doubles, offshore operators spend more, not less, and Oceaneering is a direct beneficiary.

Top Detractors:

- **Bruker Biosciences Corp. (BRKR):** Bruker makes high-performance scientific instruments and analytical and diagnostic solutions that enable scientists to explore life and materials at molecular, cellular, and microscopic levels.[11] Their product portfolio spans magnetic resonance, mass spectrometry, X-ray, microscopy, molecular spectroscopy, and software solutions, serving life science, biopharma, applied research, microbiology, diagnostics, and nanotechnology.[12]

  During Q1 2026, Bruker stock declined due to continued headwinds from US academic and government funding cuts, with bookings down in the high teens percentage for the full year, and management guided for a mid-single-digit organic revenue decline in Q1 2026 specifically due to this pressure.[13]

  Old West's investment thesis is structured on the idea that AI will lead way to a period of scientific advancement comparable to the Renaissance or Industrial Revolution, and we believe that the companies that help bridge AI's intelligence with the physical world's measurable reality are positioned at the next frontier. Bruker's NMR spectrometers, mass spectrometers, and atomic force microscopes are the sensors that translate the physical world into data AI can work with.

- **Ralliant Corp. (RAL):** Ralliant is a global technology company that specializes in designing, developing, manufacturing, and servicing precision instruments and highly engineered products. If a company is designing a semiconductor chip, building a battery system, or testing a defense system, they almost certainly need Ralliant's instruments to verify that everything is working accurately. They are the picks-and-shovels supplier to the engineers building the physical technology stack. Their Test and Measurement segment sells under brand names including Tektronix, Keithley Instruments, Sonix, and EA Electro-Automatik.[14]

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[10] https://finance.yahoo.com/markets/stocks/articles/whats-store-oceaneering-international-stock-125700242.html
[11] https://www.bruker.com/en/about.html
[12] https://www.bruker.com/en/about/our-business-groups.html
[13] https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/bruker-corp-brkr-q4-2025-210654051.html
[14] https://investors.ralliant.com/

In Q1 2026, Ralliant stock declined due to a $1.4 billion non-cash goodwill impairment in its Test & Measurement segment related to its EA Elektro-Automatik acquisition. Management stated the impairment reflected revised long-term expectations for the EA business and a reduction in industry forecasts for future EV adoption.

- **Trilogy Metals Inc. (TMQ):** Trilogy Metals is a metal exploration and development company. It holds a 50% interest in Ambler Metals LLC, which owns the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects in northwestern Alaska's Ambler Mining District, one of the most prospective copper-dominant districts in the world.[15]

  Trilogy Metals is part of our portfolio's large exposure to metals and mining where we see a combination of strong fundamental outlook and low valuation. Copper is the metal that connects everything in an electrified, AI-driven world, and it runs through every wire, every motor, every data center. The supply of many metals is insufficient to meet future demand, and prices are too low to give an incentive for new development. We believe prices must rise to levels that make development projects economical, and the companies that can deliver supply into that environment will benefit.

  In Q1 2026, Trilogy's shares declined mainly as a result of a post-spike hangover from the October 2025 catalyst in which the U.S. government announced a $35.6 million strategic investment for approximately a 10% equity stake in the company. A binding letter of intent with the U.S. Department of War was also amended to extend the transaction completion date to May 31, 2026.[16]

PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

Each quarter we walk through select portfolio holdings to bring our investment process to life. This quarter, we cover our positioning in metals and mining, our conviction in energy, particularly natural gas, and our expanding exposure to the critical industries powering the physical economy.

For the last several years we have held a sizable position in metals and mining stocks, at times over half of our portfolio. These positions were accumulated during a period when the sector attracted very little attention. The market was focused on cyclical demand weakness

[15] https://www.stocktitan.net/overview/TMQ/

[16] https://www.stocktitan.net/sec-filings/TMQ/10-q-trilogy-metals-inc-quarterly-earnings-report-e52a764d76af.html

and ignoring longer term structural supply issues. Last year and the beginning of this year saw the exact opposite. Mining stocks multiplied in value as investors came to terms with the inevitability of supply problems, with geopolitical uncertainty and an AI spending spree putting the spotlight on physical supply chains.

At the beginning of the year, we redeployed some of our gains into energy stocks. We saw oil below $60 per barrel, companies at multi-year lows, and depressed valuations on top of depressed earnings. The narrative claimed that 2026 was going to see a surplus, weak demand meeting a wave a new supply. Looking further out we saw a tighter market. We thought a rebalancing might play out over the next year or two as the market gradually looked past 2026, estimates started to pick up and life returned to the sector.

When the Iran conflict broke out in late February, it compressed what might have otherwise taken eighteen months into a few weeks. The oil price doubled and many of our recently initiated positions increased dramatically. These positions had been built on valuations and supply constraints, not a geopolitical thesis. But sometimes luck is the residue of design, and the events of this quarter showed that the type of investments we make in physical supply chains and critical materials often benefit from volatility, instead of being harmed by it.

Mining stocks, which had been broadly popular two months earlier, sold off sharply on war fears and recession concerns, a reminder that even positions built on correct structural theses do not move in straight lines. The capital we had harvested from them was already at work in energy and other adjacent areas. We added quite a few new names in the quarter, and the overlap that occurs as we scale into new positions while scaling out of others has given us a more diversified portfolio. We are happy to navigate this volatile period with lower average weights across a larger surface area while we await the next opportunity the market may offer.

The largest gaps between price and value over the next decade may be found at the intersection of artificial intelligence and the physical economy. The rise of AI agents, machines that operate 24/7 and perform tasks in the physical world, creates a new source of demand and potential strain on physical infrastructure. AI cannot yet build its own pipelines, lay its own railroads, or synthesize its own chemicals. It runs on infrastructure that already exists. In prior technological revolutions, durable wealth accrued to the owners of the physical infrastructure the technology required. Our portfolio has broadened into these areas with that in mind, finding physical assets where sentiment is depressed, valuations reflect years of neglect, and structural demand is building underneath the surface.

One area which deserves mention is natural gas, which closed the quarter near seventeen-month lows. While we understand the reasons given for its current weakness, we still find it unusual. Electricity is in shortage. The largest technology companies in the world are committing hundreds of billions of dollars to build datacenters that require enormous amounts of power. Gas turbine manufacturers are sold out through the end of the decade, and some operators are scavenging jet engines from retired aircraft to satisfy their needs. We are big believers in nuclear power and follow developments in nuclear fusion closely. Both technologies would be ideal ways to generate electricity in the future. But demand is today, and the primary fuel source for dispatchable generation is priced as though none of this is happening. We own natural gas producers and distributors and expect them to do very well in the coming years.

This is a time of rapid change. It appears the marginal cost of intelligence is heading toward zero. The marginal cost of the physical world is not. Nearly every event this quarter, the conflict, the supply disruptions, the commodity spikes, the scramble for physical resources, reinforced the same point. As AI grows more capable, the economy does not become less physical. It becomes more so. The owners of physical assets and infrastructure may find themselves in a position not unlike the owners of steel, oil, and rail in an earlier era. We believe we are in the early stages of that transition, and the portfolio is being built accordingly.

Disclosures

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Old West Investment Management, LLC is an independent investment management firm established in 2008. Old West Investment Management, LLC manages a variety of equity, fixed income, and alternative assets for individual and institutional clients. Additional information regarding the firm's policies and procedures for calculating and reporting performance returns is available upon request. The Old West Small Cap Composite (the "SC Composite") comprises all portfolios with an asset allocation of small and mid-capitalization equities. The SC Composite was previously known as the Old West Small/Mid Cap Composite prior to 09/30/2010. There is no minimum portfolio size for inclusion in the Composite. Additional information regarding composite inclusion and calculation is available upon request. The SC Composite was created 11/1/2008 and is benchmarked to the Russell 2000® benchmark. The Russell 2000® Index is an unmanaged market capitalization weighted index of the 2,000 smallest U.S. companies in the Russell Index. Russell Investments is the owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to its respective indexes. Copyright © Russell Investments. The benchmark changed on 11/30/2018, retroactively as the firm finds it a better representation of the investment strategy. Previously the benchmarks were the Russell 2500® and S&P 500®. The Small/Mid Cap Portfolio primarily invests in small and mid-capitalization U.S. equity securities and is subject to market risk. The Portfolio may invest in foreign securities and will be subject to the risks of currency fluctuations and sudden economic or political developments. All market valuations and performance information are computed and reported in US dollars and include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Gross-of-fees performance returns are presented before management fees but after all trading expenses. Net-of-fees performance returns are presented after management fees and after all trading expenses. The standard fixed management fee for accounts with assets under management of up to USD 10 million is 1.00% per annum. Further Fee information can be obtained from Old West 's Form ADV, Part II. A complete listing and description of all composites is available upon request. Investing in equities is speculative and involves substantial risk. None of the stock information, data and company information presented constitutes a recommendation by Old West Investment Management, LLC or a solicitation of any offer to sell any securities and should not be considered investment advice of any kind. Portfolio characteristics represent data from the SC Composite as of the report date and are compiled by Old West. Individual accounts may vary due to restrictions, substitutions and other factors. Sector weightings are classified using the Global Industry Classification Standards (GICS). * The securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for client accounts. These holdings may change at any time without notice. The reader should not assume that investments in the securities listed were or will be profitable. All information contained is stated as of the report date at the top of each page unless otherwise indicated. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Individual client accounts will vary.v1.0-CA20200812