



To our valued customers:

We want to take this opportunity first, to thank you for your patronage and support. *Without* you, we certainly could not have made it to our 122nd anniversary, which we celebrated recently. *With* you, we look forward to many more opportunities.

Recently, it has become nearly unavoidable to go through a single day without hearing news of the deterioration of the economy and, more acutely, to the financial industry. We want you to know that we have always kept the interests of our customers and stakeholders in the forefront as we manage and steer High Country Bank through these uncertain financial times in which we now find ourselves. We have adhered to tried and true principals of conservative lending and investment while maintaining a strong capital position. High Country Bank avoided involvement in the activities that have contributed to the current financial crisis. We did not participate in the subprime lending programs or products, derivative instruments, or other investment products or strategies bearing excessive risk. We have maintained and increased our capital position, which now is well above the regulatory minimum well-capitalized requirements; consequently, in consideration of our excess capital position, we elected **not** to participate in any government “bailout” programs or accepting TARP funds. We have adhered to principals which have been the basis for our longevity, and we are confident that they will be the foundation for our future.

Deposits in High Country Bank are FDIC-insured up to \$250,000\*. Additionally, we believe that our 120-plus year track record of safety and soundness stands as testimony to our continued commitment to serving our customers and our communities.

Once again, we want to thank you for your past and continuing support. In spite of the current economic turmoil, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serve you and look forward to opportunities to meet your banking needs.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Smith, President,  
the Board of Directors, and  
the employees of High Country Bank

\*FDIC deposit insurance temporarily increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor through December 31, 2009

[www.highcountrybank.net](http://www.highcountrybank.net)

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