

## HIGH COUNTRY BANCORP, INC. ANNOUNCES QUARTERLY EARNINGS,

The Board of Directors (“the Board”) of High Country Bancorp, Inc. (OTC: HCBC. PK)(“the Company”) has announced its quarterly earnings for the period ended December 31, 2009. For the quarter consolidated net income was \$360,813, or \$0.43 per share. This compares to \$(14,266), or \$(0.02) per share, for the three months ending December 31, 2008. For the six months ending December 31, 2009, consolidated net income was \$603,845, or \$0.71 per share. This compares to \$ 273,725, or \$.32 per share, for the prior year period. Total consolidated assets decreased approximately \$6,000,000 from \$199.7 million at June 30, 2009 to \$193.7 million at December 31, 2009. Deposits decreased by approximately 1.5% or \$2,300,000 during the six months from \$159.0 million at June 30, 2009 to \$156.7 million at December 31, 2009.

The Company’s net interest income before provision for loan losses increased 60% during the three-month period ending December 31, 2009, compared to the prior year period. For the first half of fiscal year 2010 net interest income before provision for loan loss increased 108.43% compared to the same fiscal period in 2009. Noninterest income increased 47.65% for the three month period ending December 31, 2009, compared to the prior year period and increased 28.9% from prior fiscal year to date. The increase in the current year period was primarily due to loans sold to the secondary market. For the three month period ending December 31, 2009, noninterest expense decreased 5.3%, compared to the prior year period and decreased 2.4% for the comparative period in 2009.

Larry Smith, Chairman of the Board and President of the Company stated “The continuing weak national economy has more adversely affected the local economy in recent months. This has made managing asset quality more challenging. Our focus remains on building and maintaining strong capital levels and reducing problem assets while supporting our communities,”

High Country Bancorp, Inc. is the holding company for High Country Bank, which conducts business through its main office in Salida, Colorado, and branch offices in Salida, Buena Vista and Canon City, Colorado. At December 31, 2009, the Company had 860,501 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

This report contains certain forward-looking statements pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties including changes in economic conditions in the Company’s market area, changes in policies by regulatory agencies, fluctuations in interest rates, loan demand in the Company’s market area and competition that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical earnings and those presently anticipates or projected. The Company wishes to caution readers not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which reflect management’s analysis only as the date made. The Company does no undertake any obligation to publicly revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date of such statements.