

## HIGH COUNTRY BANCORP, INC. ANNOUNCES QUARTERLY EARNINGS AND DECLARES DIVIDEND

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 March 31, 2014. For the third quarter of fiscal 2014, consolidated net income was \$434,331 or \$0.48 per share while for the nine months then ended net income was \$1,355,577 or \$1.52 per share. This compares to \$424,162, or \$0.49 per share and \$1,481,289 or \$1.71 per share, for the three and nine months ended March 31, 2013, respectively.

The Company’s net interest income after provision for loan losses for the nine months ended March 31, 2014 has increased by \$154,565 or 2.5% when compared to the prior year period. For the same period comparison, noninterest income decreased by \$476,144 or 32.2% and noninterest expense increased by \$677 or 0.01%. The decrease in noninterest income was due to a 57.7% decrease in loan fee income from mortgage loans sold on the secondary market and is indicative of the striking slowdown in the mortgage refinancing market.

Total consolidated assets increased approximately \$2.3 million or 1.2% from \$196.7 million at June 30, 2013 to \$199.0 million at March 31, 2014. Loans Held for Investment, net increased by \$2.8 million to \$134.2 million (2.1%) and the total Securities portfolio increased by approximately \$6.7 million from June 2013 to March 2014. Deposits have increased by approximately \$1.4 million (0.8%) during the comparable period while Equity, net of the second quarter dividend payment, grew by \$704 thousand (3.1%).

On April 24, 2014, the Board declared a cash dividend on the Company’s outstanding shares of common stock. The dividend in the semi-annual amount of \$1.00 per share is payable to stockholders of record on May 9, 2014. The Board determined that the payment of a dividend was appropriate after consideration of the Company’s financial condition and on the strength of its core earnings.

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 March 31, 2014, the Company had 898,088 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 anticipated 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 not undertake any obligation to publicly revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date of such statements.