

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 September 30, 2013. For the first quarter of fiscal 2014, consolidated net income was \$451,699 or \$0.51 per share. This compares to \$459,156, or \$0.53 per share, for the three months ending September 30, 2012.

The Company’s net interest income after provision for loan losses increased by \$3,285 or 0.2% during the three-month period ending September 30, 2013, compared to the prior year period. For the same period comparison, noninterest income decreased by \$13,335 or 3.3% and noninterest expense increased by \$6,871 or 0.4%. The decrease in noninterest income was due to a decrease in loan fee income from mortgage loans sold on the secondary market and indicative of the slowdown in the mortgage refinancing market.

Total consolidated assets increased approximately \$3.4 million or 1.7% from \$196.7 million at June 30, 2013 to \$200.1 million at September 30, 2013. Loans Held for Investment, net increased by \$2.6 million to \$134.0 million (2.0%) and the total Securities portfolio increased by approximately \$5.3 million from June 2013 to September 2013. Correspondingly, Deposits increased by approximately \$2.6 million (1.5%) during the comparable period and Equity grew by \$.5 million (2.0%).

On October 17, 2013, 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 November 11, 2013. 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.

“While operating results for the first quarter of fiscal 2013 are very comparable to the first quarter last year and we have experienced some loan and deposit growth, it continues to be a challenging operating environment for the Company as interest rates remain near historic lows and regulatory burdens increase,” stated Larry Smith, Chairman of Board and President of the Company. “Our focus on asset quality and serving the needs of upper Arkansas River Valley has produced solid operating results and strong capital levels. However, we expect continued compression of net interest margins and reduced fee income from sold loans which will make ongoing expense management critical”.

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 September 30, 2013, the Company had 889,547 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 not undertake any obligation to publicly revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date of such statements.