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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The U.S. Green Building Council Awards
Meadow Ranch LEED® Platinum Certification for Green Homebuilding**

December 14, 2009 – (Coeur d’Alene, ID) – Today, the home at 4421 Meadow Ranch Avenue was awarded LEED® Platinum Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for achievement in green homebuilding. LEED® for Homes is a national third-party certification system for energy efficient, healthy, green homes. LEED®-certified homes complete a technically rigorous process that includes performance testing and onsite inspections to verify that the home is built to be energy and water efficient, environmentally sound, and a healthier place to live. Platinum is the highest level of certification.

The home was built by ActiveWest Builders, which is well-known in the area for their expertise and leadership in building LEED® homes. ActiveWest has seven other homes registered and will soon be registering six more in the Meadow Ranch neighborhood, which is also registered under the LEED® for Neighborhood Development certification program. Meadow Ranch is an active adult community located next to Fred Meyer off of Kathleen at Howard & Bosanko.

“The U.S. Green Building Council is proud to help celebrate ActiveWest’s commitment to greener living,” said Sharon Patterson, Chair of the Board of Directors, U.S. Green Building Council Idaho Chapter. “Their leadership demonstrated at Meadow Ranch is at the national forefront of quality homebuilding; and their example can help us all to live better by reducing our environment footprint, cutting our utility bills, and coming home to a healthier place to live.”

According to Dennis Cunningham, President of ActiveWest Builders, the homes in Meadow Ranch are an ideal combination of comfort, health, and value. This urban infill neighborhood is within walking distance of public transportation, shops and other conveniences. The home focuses heavily on reducing energy use yet doesn’t skimp on comfort, which is evidenced by the radiant floor heating.

The three bedroom home features ENERGY STAR® windows, appliances and lighting fixtures, as well as programmable thermostats and high efficiency gas furnaces and air conditioners.

- More -

Platinum Certification for Green Homebuilding, cont.

In addition to a fresh air system, low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint, recycled fiber carpet, reclaimed wood flooring and GREENGUARD Certified quartz countertops have been used throughout the house, which results in a healthier indoor air quality. As a result of incorporating durable, responsible, and energy saving products and technologies, Meadow Ranch has achieved the highest level of certification possible in the LEED® for Homes green building rating system.

About Active West Builders

ActiveWest Builders (AWB) designs and builds high performance, healthy, green homes & buildings. Proud winner of the Idaho Smart Growth & Green Building award for Meadow Ranch, AWB is quickly establishing itself for building high quality, distinctive homes that are as smart as they are beautiful.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since UGSBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 78 local chapters. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org or www.usgbcidaho.org.

About LEED® for Homes

LEED® for Homes is a third-party certification system for high-performance green homes. Developed by USGBC, LEED for Homes awards points to projects in seven categories of environmental performance: Location & Linkages, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere, Homeowner Awareness, and Innovation and Design. To date, over 19,000 have been registered and are under development. For more information, visit www.greenhomeguide.com.

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