



ABOVE: duPont, a Freeride World Tour contender, takes to the air with a round of speedriding, a combo of paragliding and skiing.

RIGHT: Ta-da! Engerbretson finishes her flight with a smile.



Q & A



Lexi duPont

When Lexi duPont isn't traveling the globe for competition or film shoots, she lives in a 500-square-foot geodesic dome in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Where, when and how did your skiing addiction begin, and how do you cope when you can't ski?

My skiing addiction began at the young age of 2 years old. Oh, wait, I may be confusing those early childhood feelings with Sour Patch Kids bribes on the chair lift. I always say if it wasn't for candy and hot chocolate when I was first learning to shred, then I would probably be living a very different lifestyle. Thank you, sugar! When I can't ski I am constantly searching for adventure. Surfing, biking, hiking, climbing. The winters are almost the easiest because I don't have to think about what I'm going to do every day. Eat-ski-sleep is my favorite routine.

You're a member of the Protect Our Winters Riders Alliance. Do you feel you have a unique platform for promoting environmental stewardship, and why is that important for you and for the sport?

Oooooo yeaah! We see the effect of climate change every winter no matter where we are in the world. As athletes, we also have a following and a tight community to communicate these truths with. I am honored to be a part of POW and to speak for Mother Earth. I'm actually making a short film called "LOVE to Your Mother" to do just that - speak up for our home and precious resources.

What drove you to pursue your pilot's license and how does the thrill of flying compare to the adrenaline rush of skiing?

I come from a long line of well accomplished aviators, so I guess you can say it runs deep in my veins. It requires a huge amount of dedication and discipline but the euphoric feeling of flying an airplane all on your own is soooo worth it. When I'm driving to the airport I'm blasting music and getting super fired up, just like I do when I drive to the hill on a pow day.

— ERIC SMITH