

# **Comparative Study of Cross-Country Skis**

Project Proposal



**Prepared for Hans Amrein**

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## Introduction

During a recent conversation you mentioned that it was time to buy a new pair of Cross-Country skis. When you purchased your first set of Cross-Country skis, you bought a pair without much hesitation, because you had no experience. The expert sales person suggested skis for beginners. You trusted the expert and the skis served you well for many years.

Because you used your first skis for many years you have now a better idea what you are looking for in a new pair of skis that will be suited for deep snow conditions. You want to use the skis on groomed trails and in the backcountry. You are a recreational skier and more experienced than when you bought your first skis. You want to enjoy the quiet off-road mountain trails, where no snowmobiles are allowed.

You prefer new skis, but you also would like to compare with used skis. You would consider buying these if they were in good condition. Your ski poles, bindings, and boots are still in excellent condition. You like to know, if your present ski poles, bindings and boots can be used with your new skis. You would like to make an informed decision for this purchase.

Based on these factors, it should be fun to explore the latest Cross-Country ski equipment for you and find a pair of skis that will serve you better than your present skis. I will research the following ski brands and models for you:

- Atomic Sierra Backcountry Skis
- Fisher BC Country Crown
- Madshus Voss Multigrip E+ Skis
- Madshus Tyin Multigrip + Skis
- Rossignol EVO Trail AR Skis
- Rossignol X-Tour Explorer AR Skis

We identified the following criteria for selecting your Cross-Country skis:

- Style
- Performance
- Construction
- Length of skis
- Width of skis
- Cost

Please review this proposal for finding the most suitable cross-country skis for you. This proposal is divided into the following sections: Project Procedures, Qualification and Experience, Budget, Task Schedule, and an Initial Bibliography.

I will be very happy to do this research for you and discuss any further ideas or suggestions that you may have.

# Project Procedures

## Significance of Problem

Choosing a pair of Cross-Country skis depends on the style of skiing you intend to do. While I was locating information about cross-country skiing, I learned some about its history, which I would like to pass on to you. Cross-country skiing dates back about 5,000 years. It originated in Norway, and then it became popular throughout Scandinavia and Russia. Not as a sport, but to move faster over distances during the long and hard winter season.

While we were discussing the purchase of the Cross-Country skis, you wanted to know what the difference was between Cross-country and Nordic skiing. There is no difference. The name surfaced because of its origin in northern Europe. Alpine skiing, however, draws its name from the Alps in Southern Europe.

You have a cabin in the mountains near Lake Cle Elum. There is a lot of deep snow every winter. The area has become very popular over the years for motorized winter sport activities. You like to get off the beaten path using Cross-Country skis. There are special places where there are no motorized vehicles permitted. Your present Cross-Country skis are not made for off-track skiing, which means that you need a different style of ski.

There will be a choice between “**Skating**” and “**Classic**” gear. Most beginners start out with the classic motion. Here the skis stay parallel and you use “a gliding walk” motion. Classic gear ranges from “**Racing, Sports, Adventure, Touring and Backcountry**”. I know that you are not a beginner and not a competitive sports person. You like to use the skis for recreational skiing. You like to work your way up on mountain logging roads and then enjoy the downhill run, or just enjoy Park areas, or check out what’s around the next bend or over the next hill.

I will start comparing the brands and styles of Adventure, Touring and Backcountry skis for you. If you decide on Touring or Backcountry skis, your present bindings, boots and poles will not be the correct type. I remember that you used to get wet feet in your present boots going off-track, because they are made for groomed trails only. The poles have a wider basket and are sturdier for Touring or Backcountry skis. Steel edges will make the downhill run safer, hence better control in curves. You are looking for waxless skis, since speed is not one of your priorities.

## Project Methods

I will compare selected Cross-Country skis based on the following resources:

- Online Sources
- On-site Visit(s) to Cross-Country specific Store(s)
- Interview(s)

I will provide more detail about each of my resources in the Final Report. The information in parentheses below each resource indicates the criteria it covers. Continued research may change or more information may be added to the present list of resources as I progress in the study. I may find other resources with important and useful information.

### Online Sources

The following websites will be used to gather Cross-Country ski information:

“Cross-Country Skis and Ski Manufacturers” [cross-countryski.com](http://cross-countryski.com)  
(Manufacturers of good Cross-Country skis)

“Cross-Country Ski Source” [skipost.com](http://skipost.com)  
(Cross-Country skiing knowledge)

“Cross-Country Ski Equipment Buying Guide” [skiing.about.com](http://skiing.about.com)  
(XC ski type, Sizing XC ski, XC ski glossary)

“Recreational Equipment, Inc” [rei.com](http://rei.com)  
(local XC Ski specific store)

### On-site visit(s)

I will visit the following sites to find Cross-Country ski specific information:

Recreational Equipment, Inc, Tukwila, WA  
(Brand, Style, Fitting, Purchase Price)

Ski Barn, Renton, WA  
(Brand, Style, Fitting, Purchase Price)

## Interview(s)

Interview(s) pending.

I plan to visit REI at the Tukwila location and talk to an experienced Cross-Country Specialist about the different brands and styles, ease of use, and purchase price.

I may visit the Ski Barn in Renton to see how informed they are and to get another opinion.

## Task Schedule

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Finish Date</i>
<b>Preliminary Research</b>	30 June 2004	7 July 2004
<b>Proposal</b>	3 July 2004	7 July 2004
<b>Documented Research</b>	7 July 2004	14 July 2004
<b>Progress Report</b>	9 July 2004	14 July 2004
<b>On-Site Visit</b>	11 July 2004	11 July 2004
<b>Interview(s)</b>	11 July 2004	11 July 2004
<b>Data Report</b>	15 July 2004	21 July 2004
<b>Final Report</b>	23 July 2004	8 Aug. 2004

## Qualification and Experience

I have worked in the technical field in multiple disciplines since I earned my Technical Drafting degree in Germany. I learned to express myself and understand technical data and perform research for Engineers. I have two more quarters at BCC to earn a Business Technology Systems certificate and a Translation certificate for German to English and English to German. I am detailed and thorough in any given task.

I am taking a Technical Report Writing class at Bellevue Community College to be up to date on this type of communication, since English is my second language. I am well qualified to do this research for Cross-Country skis for you.

## Budget

The following is a summary of estimated costs for this comparison study:

<b>Research</b>	(24 hours @ \$16/hour)	\$384.00
<b>Compiling Report</b>	(20 hours @ \$16/hour)	\$320.00
<b>Office Supplies</b>	(paper, printing ,etc)	\$20.00
<b>Travel Expenses</b>	(50 miles @ \$0.40/mile)	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$744.00</b>

## Initial Bibliography

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"Cross-Country Ski Areas Association." Website maintained by CCSAA. *Anything you want to know about Cross-Country Skiing Gear; How to start*. 6 July 2004. <<http://xcski.org>>

"Cross Country Skiing Online." ©2000-2004. *Manufacturers of good cross-country skis*. 6 July 2004. <<http://www.cross-countryski.com/index.htm>>

Last Name, First Name. Cross-Country Specialist. REI. *Personal Interview*. Date pending.

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"Recreational Equipment, Inc." REI. © 1996-2004. *Nordic Ski Gear*. 6 July 2004. <<http://www.rei.com/rei/gearshop>>

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"The World of Cross-Country Skiing." Website updated daily. *All about Cross-Country Skiing, Equipment and Maintenance*. 6 July 2004. <<http://www.xcskiworld.com>>