**Stephanie Gripne, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director**

Stephanie is the creative force behind the Impact Finance Center, which she founded in 2013. As an academic entrepreneur, philanthropic advisor, researcher, and educator in the field of impact investing, Stephanie sets the vision and provides leadership for the entire organization while focusing on business development, client engagement, and industry thought leadership through her research, writing, and speaking. Stephanie has 20 years of experience at the intersection of business and natural resources, working for the EcoProducts Fund $100 Ecosystem Service private equity fund, the Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, DOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Journal of Wildlife Management, and several universities. Stephanie received her Ph.D. from the Boone and Crockett Wildlife Conservation Program at the University of Montana.  She has a B.S. in Biology & Wildlife Management from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and a M.S. in Ecology from Utah State University. Stephanie is an Aspen Institute Environment Forum Scholar, Environmental Leadership Senior Fellow, Property Environment Research Center Fellow, Ford Foundation Community Forestry Fellow, and Boone and Crockett Professional Member.