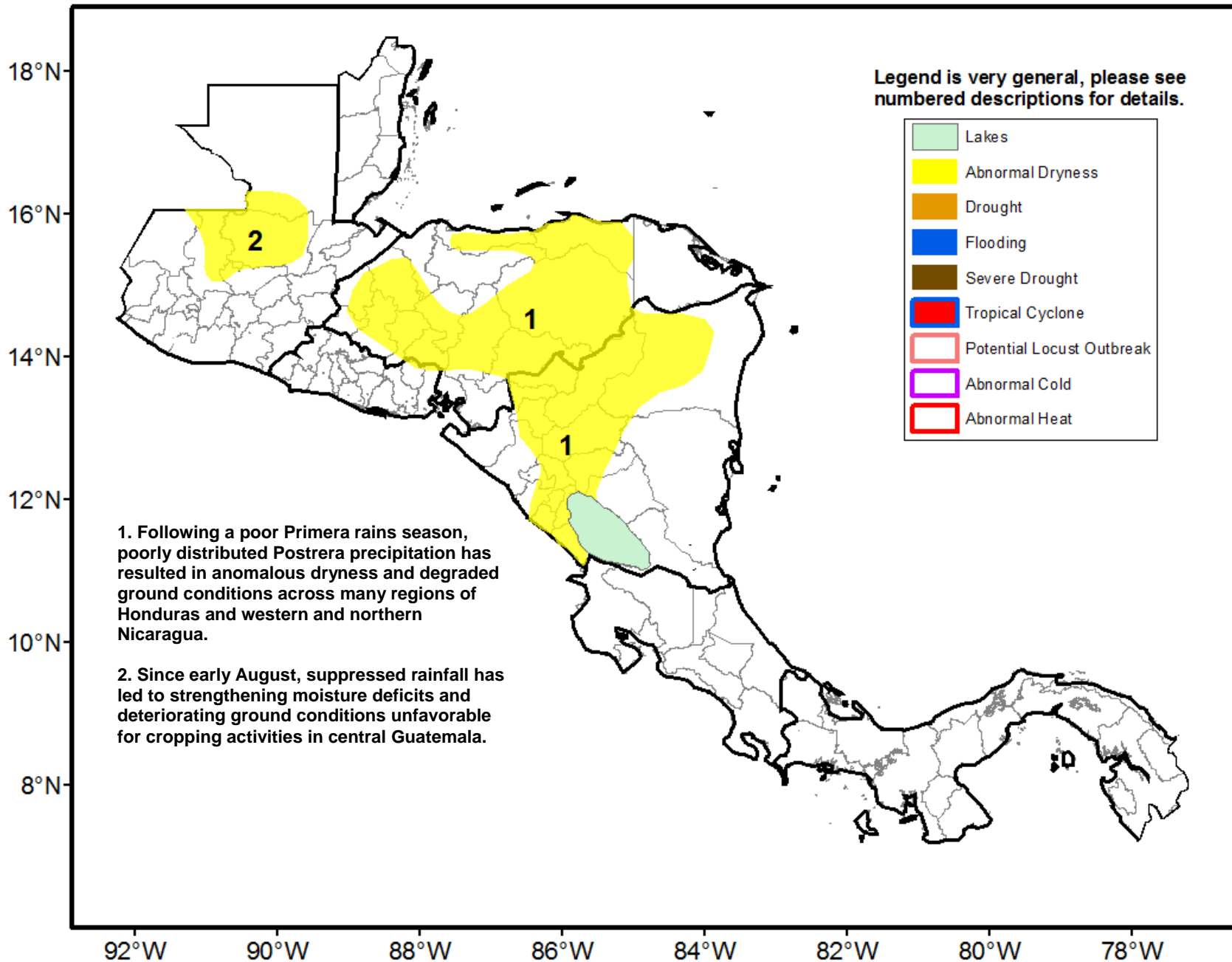




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook November 1 – November 7, 2018

A substantial decrease in rainfall has been observed across the region.



**As forecasted, rains were substantially suppressed last week, possibly signaling an early end to the Postrera rainfall season.**

Widespread below-average rainfall occurred across Central America last week. The heaviest rains shifted southward over areas of southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. For the rest of the region, rains were much lighter and widely scattered. A few southwestern departments of Guatemala received 25-50mm of rain, while Belize, central/northern Guatemala, and central Honduras received very little rainfall. Since the beginning of August, considerable moisture deficits persist throughout some departments of central Guatemala. Poor and sporadic rains resulted in moisture deficits of 20-50% of normal, but improvement has been observed during the last 2 weeks. Similar conditions exist in many parts of Honduras and Nicaragua, which have experienced a substandard Postrera rainfall performance to date. Long-term deficits still exist, despite October rains erasing short-term deficits. Long-term deficits and erratic performance have led to the degradation of vegetation health. Low VHI values are present over northern Nicaragua and southeastern Honduras. Local portions of Guatemala, to the north and along the southern mountains, also exhibit low VHI values and a negative tendency. Conversely, much of Nicaragua exhibits improvement.

As November begins, a broad suppression of rainfall is expected across Nicaragua and Honduras. 7-day rainfall totals are forecast to remain less than 25mm according to the GFS models. Guatemala, meanwhile, may see near-average amounts of rain with some heavier showers possibly embedded which will bring higher totals.

