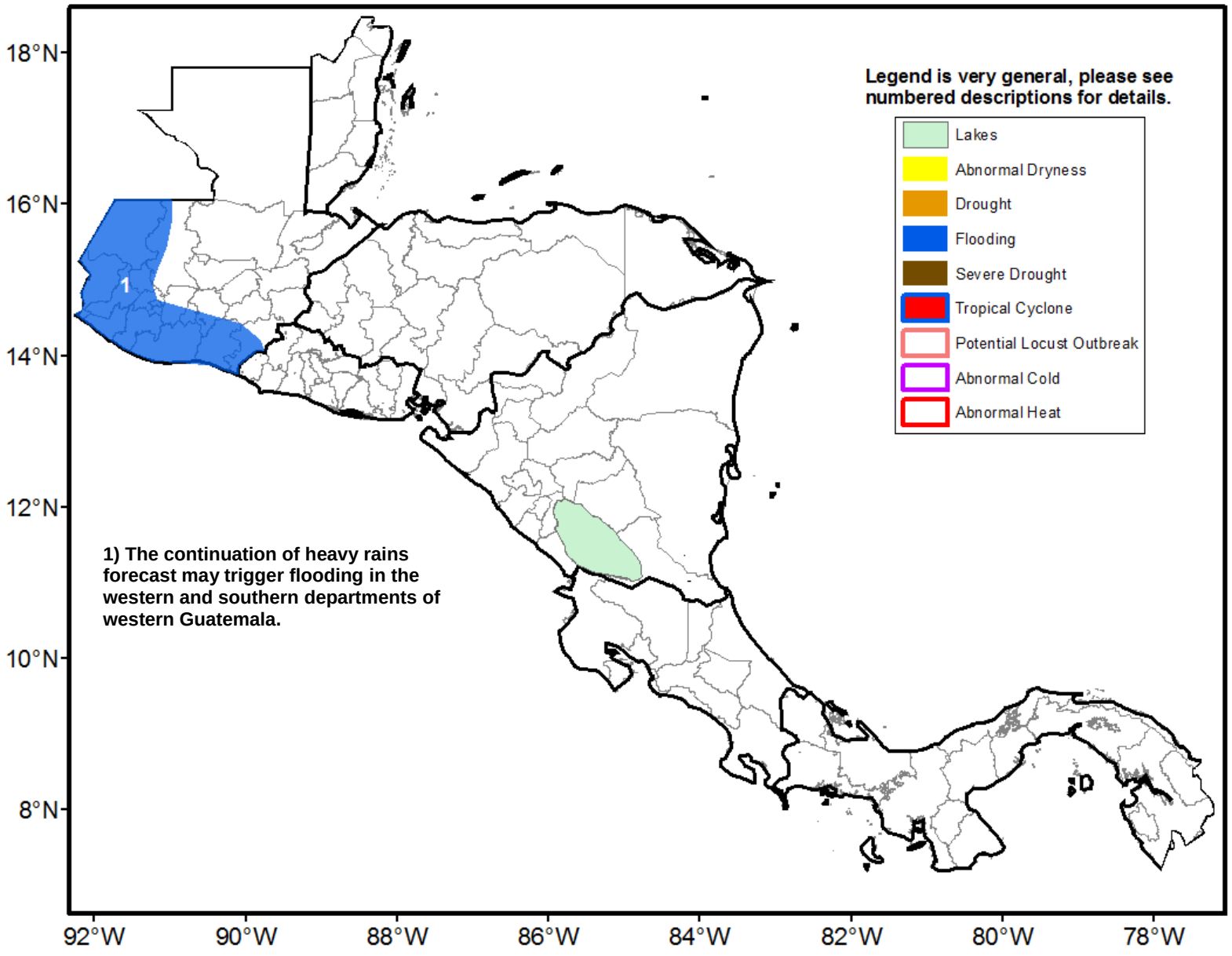
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
September 21 – September 27, 2017

Continued heavy rains forecast increase risk for localized flooding over parts of western Guatemala.



Postrera seasonal dryness strengthens over parts of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

For the second consecutive week, reduced seasonal precipitation was largely received throughout much of Central America. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>50mm) were received across northern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and western Honduras, with lower amounts (10-25mm) registered elsewhere. In El Salvador, a large decrease was observed for many departments that saw heavy rainfall during the previous week. Towards the south, heavy rainfall accumulations were received mostly offshore in the Pacific with more moderate accumulations received over Costa Rica and Panama.

The decreased rains observed during September have strengthened seasonal moisture deficits mainly over Hondruas and Nicargua. Currently, many local areas in central and eastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras have experienced between 50-80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since the beginning of August, with some local areas received less than half of their normal rainfall. Frequency analysis of rains also depicts an anomalously lower number of rains days associated to this recent dry trend in September. Vegetation health indices also indicate gradually declining conditions where anomalous seasonal dryness has developed.

For next week, the potential for heavy, flood inducing rainfall shower activity is again forecast for western Guatemala, with high amounts expected for southern Honduras. However, light to locally moderate rain is forecast over eastern Honduras and central Nicaragua, which may result in the continued strengthening of mid-season moisture deficits, raising the risk to adversely impact cropping activities.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH Climatology (mm)
September 20 – September 27, 2017

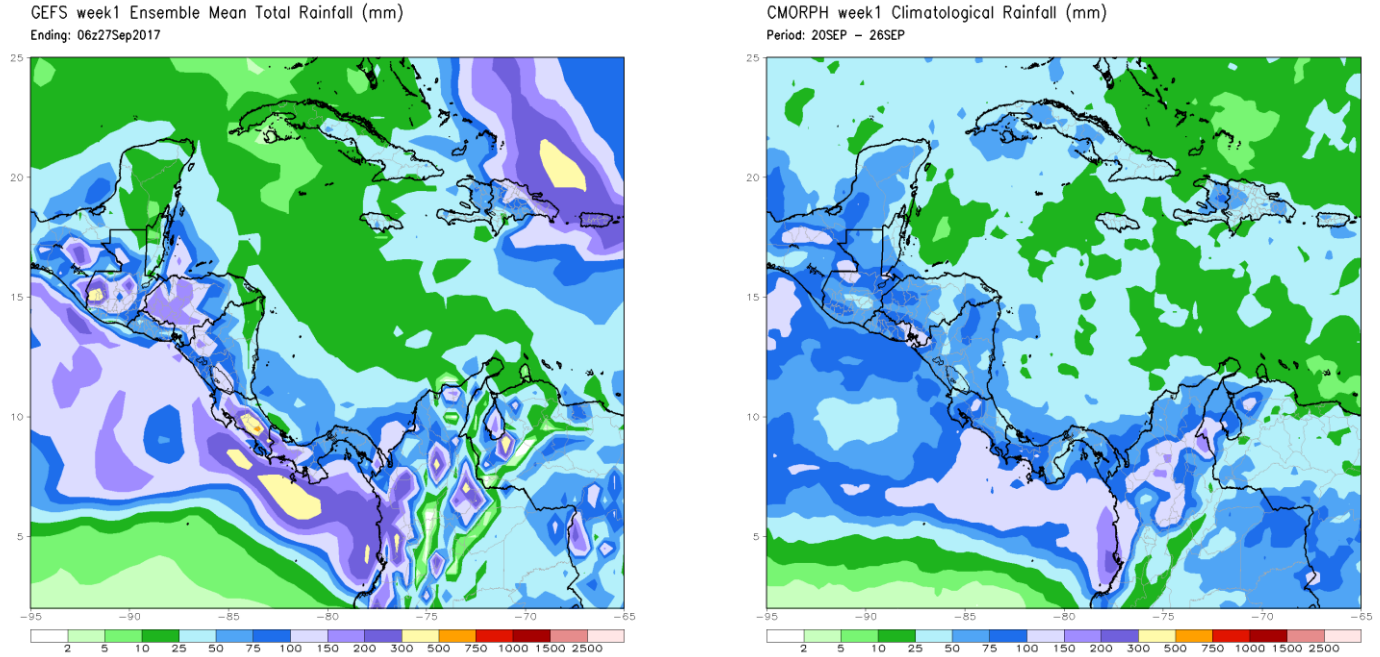


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.